Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the proposed relocation of all adult businesses to a portion of Middle Road?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Cheaper Oil

Oil prices fell in Asia to a 3-month low due to a stronger dollar.

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Busy Penelope

Penelope Cruz is busy, busy, busy.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

'No reason for alarm in submarine leak' **PAGE 2**

Pogue leaving public radio station KRNM. **PAGE 3**

AS NEW SCHOOL YEAR LOOMS

PSS down to 11 school buses

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The five new buses the Public School System ordered will not be on island by the start of the school year, leaving PSS with just 11 buses for the entire Saipan district.

WHAT NEXT

Bus schedule may be ready by Monday.

The new buses should arrive on or before Nov. 30, PSS bus team leader Steven M. Pangelinan said.

See PSS on Page 4

MEMORIAL RITES

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Mariana Blue Corp. president Yuka Kitamura offers a flower as a tribute to World War II victims during a ceremony at the Japanese Peace Memorial near the Last Command Post in Marpi yesterday morning. *See story on Page 5 and related picture on Page 8.*

AP

An overweight man is shown in Washington in this 2003 file photo.

50 percent of overweight adults may be heart-healthy

ON THE NET

- Archives: http://www.archinternmed.com
- American Heart Association: http://www.heart.org

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—You can look great in a swimsuit and still be a heart attack waiting to happen. And you can also be overweight and otherwise healthy. A new study suggests that a surprising number of overweight people—about half—have normal blood pressure and cholesterol levels, while an equally startling number of trim people suffer from some of the ills as-

See 50 PERCENT on Page 4

Feds: Guerrero a 'minor' player in scheme

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero played a "minor" role in an alleged scheme involving Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez and two others to bilk the government out of thousands of dollars with a series of needless chemical purchases, federal

RELATED NEWS

Business as usual at Lt. Gov.'s office. **PAGE 3**

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Guerrero

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Local

'No reason for alarm in submarine leak'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration received assurances yesterday from the U.S. military in Guam that the amount of radioactive water that leaked from the nuclear-powered submarine USS *Houston* while docked on Saipan in December 2007 was "very, very minimal" and that there is no reason for alarm.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. told *Saipan Tribune* that Gov. Benigno Fitial was pleased to get the report from the U.S. military, particularly the assurance that there was very minimal environmental impact.

The USS *Houston* was on Saipan Dec. 19 to 23, 2007.

The U.S. military's report states that the cumulative amount of radioactivity released to the environment as a result of this port visit was less than 0.095 micro curies.

"At no time was there a risk to the reactor plant, the safety of the crew, the safety of the public, marine life, or the environment as a result of this port visit," the report says.

It indicates that the amount of radioactivity involved is extremely small.

"The amount of naturally occurring radioactivity in the seawater of a harbor is millions of times greater than the radioactivity released during this event," the military says in the report.

The total amount of radioactivity reportedly released into the environment as a result of all port visits from June 2006 to July 2008 is less than the amount of radioactivity contained in a common household smoke detector, the report says.

The U.S. military determined that a shut valve in the USS *Houston*'s engineering plant has been steadily leaking a small amount above the stringent design specification from June 2006 until Houston was placed in dry dock in July 2008.

"This weepage was so small that it was below the limit of detection by personnel on the ship and was indistinguishable by the ship from no leakage at all," the military says.

Reyes said the administration is interested in getting more information about the leak incident from any other source or any other party that may have more information.

This is because what they got was only from the military, he added.

"Right now, the only major

See NO on Page 4

Firm told to comply with hiring regs

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor has ordered a construction company to comply with the 20 percent requirement in the employment of citizens and resident workers in the CNMI. At the same time, the Administrative Hearing Office directed the Labor director to release 37 pending applications made by Misamis Construction (Saipan) Ltd.

Hearing officer Jerry Cody also ordered Labor Director Barry Hirsbein to approve the pending Conditional Grants of Transfer for each complete application "as soon as practicable."

In an administrative order signed yesterday, Cody said Misamis must hire and employ a minimum of three citizens or permanent resident workers each month beginning next month and continuing each month for a period of one year.

Cody stressed that such hiring shall be deemed to demonstrate the employer's good faith effort to comply with labor regulations.

Earlier, Misamis filed a petition against DOL related to pending applications. A hearing was held on Aug. 7 to take up Labor's objection to the company's plan to hire one alien worker.

In that hearing, Hirshbein appeared with Director of Employment Services Alfred Pangelinan and Alice Concepcion. The operations manager of Misamis, Barrie Ladd, also appeared.

Misamis claimed that 37 of its filed work permit applications are currently on hold in the Processing Section, with pending CGOT awaiting approval.

Hirshbein confirmed during the hearing that the applications have been on hold due to a refusal of Employment Services to certify that Misamis has met the requirement that 20 percent of its workforce must be composed of U.S. citizens and resident workers.

Misamis said it hired five construction trainees from a local trade school during the past month and Ladd promised that the company would continue efforts to find qualified resident workers for their various construction projects.

Employment Services said that Misamis' past record of resident hiring has been inadequate.

Cody also ordered Misamis to provide DOL's Employment Services with a list of all such workers hired by the employer in that month with a list to be delivered on or before the seventh day of the month following the applicable month.

Cody also ordered Misamis to continue its efforts to comply with the labor requirement.

The company must also submit a written certification to Employment Services each month certifying that Misamis has posted available job openings within the past month at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Workforce Investment Agency, Northern Marianas College, Adult Development Institute and Marianas Trade Institute.

Cody said that once the CGOTs are approved in writing, Misamis must provide immediate work to those employees, within several days of the date of approval.

An appeal to the Secretary of Labor can be made within 15 days of issuance by any person or party affected by the decision.

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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, August 14, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call

II. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

III. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
   A. April 2, 2008 – Regular Meeting
   B. April 28, 2008 – Special Meeting
   C. May 6, 2008 – Special Meeting
   D. June 5, 2008 – Special Meeting

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

V. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**
   A. Action Plan for Program Year 2008
   B. Status of CDBG Projects

VI. **MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAMS**
   A. Rural Development Appraisals
   B. Status of Participating Banks
      1. BankPacific
      2. Bank of Hawaii
   C. Other Loan Matters

VII. **FIELD OFFICE REPORTS**

VIII. **FISCAL MATTERS**

IX. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

X. **OTHER MATTERS**

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

NOTE: Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13(6) and (7), some discussion of the above may be under Executive Session.

/s/
MERCED (MARCIE) M. TOMOKANE
Vice Chairwoman of the Board

Pogue leaving public radio station KRNM

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

With station manager Carl Pogue leaving island this week, KRNM will be left with questions about the station's future.

Pogue, who worked at KRNM for the last nine years, is moving to Missouri to continue his education at Southeast Missouri State University, before hopefully working in the U.S. State Department's foreign service, he said.

"I've had a wonderful time and a great run," Pogue said.

Under Pogue's guidance, the station, based at the Northern Marianas College, has provided news, a variety of music and locally produced shows dealing with community issues.

"I've been running it by myself, trying to run as streamlined a production as possible," Pogue said.

The station will not play any original content once Pogue leaves. The station will play NPR and BBC through an online stream, and use a satellite to play Radio Australia through the end of September or beginning of October, he said.

"It will be heavily automated at that time," he said. "People at the college will monitor and make sure the equipment works."

Earlier this year, NMC said they would no longer be able to cover the costs of running the station.

NMC's Board of Regents will discuss the future of the station at their next meeting on Aug. 28, Pogue said.

"NMC has never wanted to shut the station down. They just can't fund it," he said.

Pogue said he hopes NMC will transfer the station license and public radio will remain a part of the CNMI.

"I feel public radio is one of the great civic institutions of any market," he said.

Pogue said he plans on returning to Saipan, but more than likely only as a visitor.

"I've felt really fortunate to have had this opportunity," he said. "I feel like I've grown up here. I really feel like I'm leaving having done all the things I've wanted to do."

ON PROPOSED $158.4M BUDGET FOR FY 2009

'Only options left are austerity Fridays, unpaid holidays, increasing biz license'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The only options left to realize the $158.4 million budget plan for 2009 are to revisit the austerity Fridays and unpaid holidays, raise business license fees by 100 percent, and the possibility of taxing the federal Cost of Living Allowance, according to the chairman of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs.

Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangelinan made the assessment after a joint meeting between the House and Senate on the proposed 2009 budget that lasted almost three hours yesterday.

Aside from some lawmakers, present at the meeting were Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, governor's special assistant for administration and for management and budget Esther Fleming, Civil Service Commission executive director Norbert Sablan and his legal counsel, John Cool. No representatives from the Office of Personnel Management showed up.

Lawmakers are preparing to draft legislation based on the administration's proposed fiscal year 2009 budget.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after the meeting, Pangelinan said she provided alternative options like the sliding scale reduction, but this is evidently not possible because it would involve a very complex legal procedure to reduce salaries.

Austerity Fridays, on the other hand, is more flexible and workable in that it applies to everybody and the employees have a day off, Pangelinan said.

"So you don't pay them, rather than do reductions, which is more complex and involves legal issues because of the civil service…the protection on their salaries as civil service employees," she said.

Pangelinan's earlier proposal was to reduce the salaries of those earning $30,000 and up, exempting those who are making $30,000 down.

"Anyway, that's not workable," she said.

Left with just a few options (austerity Fridays, unpaid holidays, increase in business license fees, and taxing COLA), Finance Secretary Inos is expected to provide the listing of resources adjustment because "there has to be an adjustment" on fiscal year 2009 resources.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial originally submitted a budget of $158.4 million for FY 2009. The budget is now down to $154.3 million because of the funding that was already earmarked to pay Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s loan and projects.

"We have a revenue shortfall. According to Secretary Inos there is still a $19 million gap in the budget. He is saying that, based on the expenditure layout, we are short by $19 million," she said.

The senator quoted Inos as saying that there are so many liabilities and unexpected expenditures—like the bailing out of CUC—that skewed the budget projections.

Inos also stated that aside from cutting personnel costs, there is a need to address the remainder shortfall.

"We all agreed that the budget requires a working relationship and the cooperation of the Executive Branch and the Legislature and, instead of everyone doing their own thing, you need to perform as a group," Pangelinan said.

She said they are going to

See ONLY on Page 4

Business as usual at Lt. Gov.'s office

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

It is business as usual at Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez's office on Capital Hill yesterday.

Villagomez's legal counsel, Theresa Kim, said the Lt. Governo's office is open. She refused to issue further comments.

An employee at the administration building told *Saipan Tribune* that the lieutenant governor went briefly to his office yesterday.

The official's two secretaries, however, refused to answer question whether Villagomez reported for work.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said he did not see Villagomez in his office.

Asked whether Villagomez had communicated with Gov. Benigno Fitial yesterday, Reyes replied, "Not to my knowledge."

"The governor is very content to allow the legal process to unfold according to law," the press secretary said.

With respect to the position of Commerce Secretary, Reyes said Deputy Secretary Michael Ada is the acting Secretary since James A. Santos is on leave.

As of yesterday, Santos has not yet been removed as Commerce Secretary, Reyes said.

"Again, at a later date, he [Fitial] may decide to remove Santos or any Cabinet member for that matter pursuant to his constitutional authority," Reyes said.

"Mr. Michael Ada is a very good man. Usually when the Secretary of Commerce is away, Michael Ada becomes the acting Secretary," he added.

Once the Secretary is not available for whatever reason, Reyes said, the Deputy Secretary assumes responsibility for the Commerce Department.

Villagomez, Santos, his wife Joaquina Villagomez Santos, and former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero were indicted on charges of conspiring to bilk CMMI and U.S. governments out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving needless chemical purchases for CUC.

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Congressional staff meets SCC on federalization

A nine-person delegation of congressional staffers tried to reassure leaders of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce in a closed-door meeting Monday that recently passed legislation "federalizing" local immigration and foreign labor rules will safeguard the local economy, the Chamber's executive director, Kyle Calabrese said in an interview.

Members of the delegation—some representing lawmakers responsible for crafting the legislation—traveled to Guam last week to inquire about the pending military buildup there before reaching Saipan. The delegation had planned to meet with Gov. Benigno Fitial yet sources said he could not attend due to the recent indictment of Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez.

The pending federal takeover, Calabrese said, was the key issue of the meeting as a special Chamber committee on the issue detailed the potential consequences business leaders have long said it could have on the local economy, such as fueling a shortage of skilled labor.

"They attempted to assure us that they had worked diligently and strove to minimize any negative effects it might have on our economy when they were drafting the legislation," Calabrese said, adding they suggested the Department of Homeland Security would take the same approach.

Moreover, he said, the delegation discussed the prospect of establishing a special visa category for foreign workers to address the labor needs of the local community. ***(Stefan Sebastian)***

ONLY

From Page 3

meet at least twice a week starting next week to make sure they arrive at an appropriation bill that they could agree on.

In a separate interview, Inos said what they are doing right now is setting the limits of the $154 million appropriation.

"So from that $154 million, we are going to have to budget Department of Public Safety, CUC, Public School System, and all the other agencies," he said.

Inos said they were not able to identify other funding sources other that what they have already identified.

"So the crux of the meeting is really how to bring down the expenditures to the identified resources so that we can have a balanced budget," Inos said.

"We have basically bled the turnip and there's not a drop of blood in it already. So we are going to have to see if we can reduce the turnip or extend the turnip…basically squeeze every source of revenue out there, short of increasing the tax," he added.

50 PERCENT

From Page 1

sociated with obesity.

The first national estimate of its kind bolsters the argument that you can be hefty but still healthy, or at least healthier than has been believed.

The results also show that stereotypes about body size can be misleading, and that even "less voluptuous" people can have risk factors commonly associated with obesity, said study author Mary-Fran Sowers, a University of Michigan obesity researcher.

"We're really talking about taking a look with a very different lens" at weight and health risks, Sowers said.

In the study, about 51 percent of overweight adults, or roughly 36 million people nationwide, had mostly normal levels of blood pressure, cholesterol, blood fats called triglycerides and blood sugar.

Almost one-third of obese adults, or nearly 20 million people, also were in this healthy range, meaning that none or only one of those measures was abnormal.

Yet about a fourth of adults in the recommended-weight range had unhealthy levels of at least two of these measures. That means some 16 million of them are at risk for heart problems.

It's no secret that thin people can develop heart-related problems and that fat people often do not. But that millions defy the stereotypes will come as a surprise to many people, Sowers said.

Even so, there's growing debate about the accuracy of the standard method of calculating whether someone is overweight. Health officials rely on the body mass index, a weight-height ratio that does not distinguish between fat and lean tissue. The limits of that method were highlighted a few years ago when it was reported that the system would put nearly half of NBA players in the overweight category.

A number of experts say waist size is a more accurate way of determining someone's health risks, and the study results support that argument.

Dr. Robert Eckel, a former American Heart Association president and professor of medicine at the University of Colorado, said the new research may help dismiss some of the generalizations that are sometimes made about weight and health.

Study co-author Judith Wylie-Rosett emphasized that the study shouldn't send the message "that we don't need to worry about weight." That's because half of overweight people do face elevated risks for heart disease, explained Wylie-Rosett, a nutrition researcher at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York.

But, for those without elevated risks, losing weight "might be important only from a cosmetic perspective," she said.

To arrive at the estimates, scientists analyzed nationally representative government surveys involving 5,440 people age 20 and over, and extrapolated to calculate nationwide figures.

The new study, appearing in Monday's Archives of Internal Medicine, used government surveys from 1999 to 2004 that included lab tests and height and weight measurements. Participants reported on habits including smoking and physical activity.

In all weight categories, risk factors for heart problems were generally more common in older people, smokers and inactive people. Among obese people who were 50 to 64, just 20 percent were considered healthy compared with half of younger obese people.

The results underscore how important exercise is for staying healthy, even for people of healthy weight, Wylie-Rosett said.

The authors noted that fat tissue releases hormones and other substances that affect things like blood vessels, cholesterol and blood sugar. The results suggest this interaction varies among overweight and obese people, the authors said.

The results also add to mounting evidence that thick waists are linked with heart risks.

Governor vetoes bill raising salary caps for professionals

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has disapproved a bill that seeks to provide flexibility in the compensation paid to licensed professionals employed by the CNMI government.

In his letter to the Legislature, Fitial stated that, although the bill's intent—to ensure the availability of needed professional services for the Commonwealth, particularly vital health care services—is commendable, he is concerned that the bill's language "is too broad and too vague."

The governor asked the Legislature to develop a more specifically targeted and narrowly defined bill that would define "professionals" under the legislative and judicial branches, in view of the scarce resources and limited ability to provide higher employee compensation.

House Bill 16-30, introduced by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, was passed by the Senate and the House. It aims to attract and retain qualified professionals "to serve the needs of the Commonwealth."

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said that Fitial was concerned with a specific provision in the bill involving undefined "professionals" in the legislative and judicial branches.

Reyes said the bill proposes to extend the salary cap for these undefined professionals to $60,000 per year.

"We wanted language in the bill that would clearly and specifically state who would be those professionals and what the qualifications and requirements would be," he said.

In the absence of those requirements, Reyes said, the governor was not comfortable signing the bill into law.

The Office of Personnel Management and the Civil Service Commission reportedly opposed the legislation, citing the same reason.

NO

From Page 2

information that we received is from the U.S. military. According to the military, there is no reason for alarm. So far, no environmental group has stepped forward to alert us to any other impacts," the press secretary said.

Reyes noted that Japan, which was also affected by the leak and is a very advanced nation with more technical expertise, is apparently satisfied with the U.S. military's report.

"Based on the news, Japan seems to be satisfied with the assurances given by the U.S. military and government. If Japan is satisfied [considering] they have much more technical expertise, much more resources, I think the CNMI may be reasonably satisfied, unless we receive anything else to the contrary," he added.

The U.S. Navy first notified Japan on Aug. 1 that the USS *Houston* had leaked water containing small amounts of radiation when it was docked in Sasebo and Okinawa in March and April. The leak was reportedly discovered on July 17 when the Los Angeles-based fast track sub was docked in Hawaii.

FEDS

From Page 1

authorities said in a plea agreement signed last week.

On Monday, marshals led Villagomez into a federal courtroom in handcuffs to face indictment on three felony counts of wire fraud, conspiracy and theft involving federal funds. With him were Villagomez's alleged coconspirators, Commerce Secretary James Santos and his wife Joaquina Santos, the lieutenant governor's sister, who are also charged in the indictment.

Villagomez and the Santos couple pleaded not guilty Monday on all three counts.

In 1998, the indictment says, Villagomez, then CUC's director, conspired with James Santos to arrange several large purchases of Rydlyme, a de-scaling agent, through a company he owned—sales that came with a 400-percent markup and violated conflict of interest laws. Most of the 8,000 gallons of Rydlyme sold under the deal was never needed and never used. Santos' ISLA Sales Micronesia profited $280,000 through the plan from 1998 to 2000, it adds.

Villagomez later sought to revive the Rydlyme sales scheme in 2007 as lieutenant governor, this time under a sole source emergency contract with Joaquina Santos' company, Blue Pacific, filling the order, the indictment says. He enlisted Guerrero's help to execute the plan, it adds.

Court documents paint a picture of Villagomez at the time leaning hard on CUC staff to approve the contract and at one point haranguing them to "pay my sister."

The contract in 2007 earned $120,000 for Blue Pacific, the indictment says, adding that CUC should have opened the contract for competitive bidding.

However, Guerrero inked a plea deal Aug. 11 with federal prosecutors that is likely to result in his testimony when the case reaches a jury trial in October. After pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy, he could see up to five years in prison or mere probation.

Guerrero's role in the alleged scheme was a "minor" one, limited to signing the Rydlyme contract in 2007, a move he knew violated procurement regulations and conflict of interest laws, according to the plea agreement.

First Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffery Strand in a press conference Monday shared concerns that Guerrero, released on a $10,000 bond, will face severe pressure in the local community due to the charges and his involvement with the government's case. In addition, he commended Guerrero on his decision to cooperate.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Guerrero is required to "truthfully testify before the grand jury," provide any documents or information requested by federal authorities, and commit no further crimes. In return, he will not see charges for the remaining felony counts.

Guerrero's attorney did not respond to several requests for comment at press time. Meanwhile, Richard Pierce, the attorney for the Santos', said the couple's not guilty plea will "speak for itself." Villagomez's attorney, David Lujan, has declined to comment on the case.

PSS

From Page 1

"But as soon as we get them on island we'll send them out there," he said.

The PSS Pupil Transportation Division recently took four buses offline because of their "exterior and interior deterioration," he said.

The move means PSS will start the school year with fewer buses than it did last year —11 this year compared to 15 last year.

"We'll be alright as far as the opening," Pangelinan said.

He said after the first week of school he would get a better idea of the number of students that need to be picked up.

The shortage means middle and high schools routes will double back, a plan that took place last school year. With the price of gas going down, Pangelinan said he anticipates the monthly fuel costs to remain the same as last year, even with more doubling back of routes.

PSS spends an average of $15,000 to $18,000 a month on unleaded and diesel fuel.

Three elementary schools—Dandan, William S. Reyes, and Koblerville—will continue to go without bus service because of the shortage, he said.

"It's pretty much the same as last year," he said.

Pangelinan said he hopes to offer bus services to the three schools by December or January.

Ideally, Pangelinan said, he would like to have 25 to 30 buses in operation.

"That would pretty much put me where I can service the whole island," he added.

The five new buses are coming from the mainland, and federal funds are paying for the approximately $114,000 per bus cost, Pangelinan said. PSS purchased new buses in 2005 and the beginning of this year.

Pangelinan said he hopes to have the bus schedule for the 2008-2009 school year ready by Monday.

PTI launches EV-DO, boosts network speed

PTI unveiled its latest upgrade to the No. 1 network in the Marianas today with the launch of EV-DO on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. PTI's successful launch marks the first time that any carrier has introduced 3G technology to Micronesia.

EV-DO is short for Evolution Data Optimized, and elevates the speed of the PTI's network up to 10 times faster than the CNMI's previous standard for wireless communications, familiarly known as 1X.

PTI regional marketing manager Kathryn Barry explained what EV-DO will do for the CNMI and shared some of PTI's future plans for the region.

"We're all excited about the launch of EV-DO and what it means to all of our subscribers in the Marianas. Now when people say 'I'm in the network," they're also saying that they're part of the fastest wireless network in the region," Barry said.

"In the near future we plan on launching the same level of speed and performance to our IT&E subscribers on Guam."

PTI general manager Larry Knecht also voiced his enthusiasm about PTI's dedication to the Marianas.

"This is another example of PTI's commitment to bring leading edge technology to the CNMI and Guam," he said. "We may be 10,000 miles away from the U. S. mainland but our residents have a network and prices every bit as good or better than our family and friends in the U.S."

With EV-DO, business customers with smart phones can access email, photos, spreadsheets and other large files via the Internet at previously unprecedented speeds to stay connected to the office. Residential customers will enjoy a new world of entertainment thanks to EV-DO as their phones can easily access social networking sites such as MySpace, Facebook and Friendster.

EV-DO also gives PTI customers the ability to watch streaming video from the Internet as well as the ability to upload their videos to popular sharing sites like YouTube from their phones. PTI is also offering its subscribers the opportunity to "Go Unlimited" with one of the new PTI unlimited data packages.

Subscribers with handsets can surf the Internet without using their plan minutes for $9.95 while smart phone subscribers can gain unlimited access to the Internet for $19.95 per month.

EV-DO is also a boon to all laptop users as they are no longer required to bring their laptops to a Wi-Fi hotspot to access DSL speeds. The PTI Air Card gives users the freedom to travel throughout the CNMI with Internet access at DSL speeds.

PTI Air Card plans are available for only $39.95 per month and include a free air card for customers who sign one-year contracts. Those interested in taking advantage of the PTI Air Card without signing up for a plan may purchase the units for $50 and pay a month-to-month rate of $59.95.

Perhaps the brightest of EV-DO's highlights is that PTI is offering it to its subscribers at no additional cost; only the cost of airtime. Most phones from PTI are currently EV-DO capable but PTI subscribers need to stop at PTI's new Wireless Express Center in Garapan or PTI Chalan Laulau location to have their phones flashed for activation—free of charge.

"With EV-DO from PTI, the possibilities are endless. PTI is still your Connection to the World, but now you'll get wherever you want to go faster than you've ever imagined," the company said in a statement.

The company says this latest innovation is proof that PTI remains the CNMI's leader in wireless communications, and serves as another example of the company's dedication to the islands.

For more information, call 682-4PTI. ***(PTI)***

Japanese group pays tribute to WWII dead

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

When Yuka Kitamura came to Saipan for the first time seven years ago, she fell in love with the island.

Kitamura, a famous Japanese actress and model, visited the island with her mother who was battling cancer at the time. After her mother passed away, Kitamura decided to dedicate her time to helping others, including children and those that are handicapped.

On Tuesday, Kitamura, along with 17 Japanese businessmen and women, toured the Japanese, Korean and American World War II monuments on island. A Buddhist monk followed the group as they visited the sites. Saipan Mayor Juan Borja Tudela also took part in the ceremony in front of the Japanese monument.

"Japan is peace," Kitamura said. "I wish the same feeling [here]."

Fred Santos, a representative for Mariana Blue Corp., which helped arrange the trip, said the businessmen and women came to pay tribute to the victims of the war.

"They believe that with prayers, spirits can return home," he said.

The group was in town for four days, spending time scuba diving, shopping and relaxing, Santos said. The group visited Saipan's major tourist sites, including Banzai Cliff and the American Park Museum. Today is their last day on island.

MHS reminder to freshmen

All incoming freshmen (9th grade) at the Marianas High School are being reminded to make sure and verify with the MHS Registrar that they are registered for classes for School Year 2008-2009 by calling 237-3205.

"You have to provide a new blue health card to MHS for new school year," said MHS principal Karen Borja.

Deadline for submission of new blue health card from the Department of Public Health is on Sept. 2. For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

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DCCA 'rectifying' childcare payment delays

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is eliminating a step in the payment process of childcare providers in hopes of expediting the process, DCCA Deputy Secretary Melvin Faisao said.

In April, members of the CNMI Daycare Association had complained about payment delays.

In the past, the Attorney General's Office had to sign off on payments exceeding $10,000, but the AGO, the Department of Finance and DCCA have decided to forgo the AGO step, Faisao said.

"It's because of the critical need to provide childcare," he said.

Faisao said DCCA would regularly update the Attorney General's Office on payments that exceed $10,000.

Processing used to take about 40 days, but now the department is working on "compressing" the process to 18 days. The elimination of the step should shorten the delay from seven days to three or four days, he said.

Some centers have also complained that they have not received past monthly checks. Faisao said DCCA is "rectifying" the situation.

"As soon as we received those incidences, we followed up," he said.

Faisao said some childcare providers might unintentionally pick up the check of a fellow provider if they share the same mailbox.

Also, if the check is not cashed within 30 days, it must be canceled and re-issued. The Treasury Department must contact the bank to make sure the check was not cashed before issuing a new check,

All of these factors contribute to a delay, he said.

Checks to childcare providers with more than five children are usually mailed out, while relative childcare providers—those with four children or less—can be picked up, Faisao said.

"We're compassionate and sympathetic to everyone's concern, but we won't take all the blame," he said.

After more than 15 years under the Public School System, supervision of CNMI daycares was transferred to DCCA in January. DCCA currently oversees 21 daycare providers.

DCCA *ready with ratings of* NMI *childcare centers*

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Child Care Program of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is now ready to present the results of its overall as well as individual ratings among the various childcare centers in CNMI.

Program director Maribel S.D. Loste said yesterday the results will be given out in a formal presentation this Saturday, Aug. 16, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Registration of participants will start at 9am.

Loste explained that the rating system is part of the professional development efforts being conducted by the program through its so-called "Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale."

Loste said the overall rating would be made public while the various centers will have the discretion if they would want to release the results of their individual ratings.

She did not give an exact figure on the overall rating but said most of the centers are doing well.

DCAA Deputy Secretary Melvin L. O. Faisao will be present at the occasion.

Loste said there are currently 21 centers but only 18 are actively participating in the series of trainings they have been conducting monthly.

She said there is a positive outlook among some 80 participants in the trainings.

Because of this, she said, they are planning to make it twice a month but depending on the needs of each center.

"They are really eager to participate and look forward to more of these trainings," Loste said.

The trainings are mostly on technical assistance to the centers with the goal of tackling issues and challenges facing them. She said they are doing this to ensure the quality of service to beneficiaries.

"This is really a move toward quality because childcare is no longer a babysitting [method]," she said.

Samuel C. Lo, O.D., M.D.

Laser and Eye Surgery Center

Dr. Samuel C. Lo is pleased
to announce his affiliation with the
Hardt Eye Clinic.

Dr. Lo received his ophthalmology training at the world renowned New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and followed by a retina fellowship at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York. He specializes in the treatment of retinal disease including Diabetic eye disease, Macular degeneration, Retinal detachment, Cataract and Glaucoma. Dr. Lo returns to Saipan every few months to offer "**Advanced Eye Care**" to the people of Saipan.

Dr. Lo will be in Saipan beginning August 25, 2008 for one week.
Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance are accepted.

Appointments can be made by calling Hardt Eye Clinic (670) 235-2030, the Laser and Eye Surgery Center (808) 949-2000 or by email at drsamuello@yahoo.com.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DC&CA) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is hereby announcing its intention to renew its State Plan for Fiscal Year 2009. In addition to the fourteen (14) assurances which the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are mandated to comply with, in order to receive the grant, we are also required to report on the progress and accomplishments, problems and such that we have encountered within the last couple of years of the program. The LIHEAP Program generally provides cooling/utility/power assistance to eligible low-income households.

We are notifying affected individuals, specifically those who are qualified low-income, elderly, and/or disabled, other interested individuals, and the general public who may be interested in participating in the development of this plan to please contact Mr. George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor and Mrs. Gregoria O. Sablan or Mr. Frank Iglecias, the LIHEAP Staff at the DCCA LIHEAP's Office at telephone numbers 664-2568 or 664-2569. For more information and inquiry, please call the said telephone numbers, or visit our Office located at Capitol Hill House#1344.

Community meetings will be conducted on Rota, Tinian and Saipan as scheduled below. Any and all interested individuals are encouraged to attend this important meeting.

NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU

I Dipåttamenton Community and Cultural Affairs (DC&CA), Progråman Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) ginen este ha anununsia I intension-ña na para u rinueba iyon-niha State Plan para I Fiscal Year 2009. Komu ma'aomenta hålom gi Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Marianas put para u makumple I otden para manrisibin salåpe' , man marekomenda ha lokkue para bai en fatinas repot pot Adelånton I problema siha tatkomu gumuaha gi progråma kuåntos åños maloffan tatte. I LIHEAP na progråma heneråtmente ha pribininiyi (cooling/kåndet) na klasen ayudo para ayu siha na familia I man takpapa suetdon-niha.

Venue	Scheduled Dates	Times
Saipan-Multi Purpose Center	August 15-16, 2008	6:00 pm
Rota-Rota Aging Center	August 22, 2008	6:00 pm
Tinian-Tinian Gymnasium	August 29, 2008	6:00 pm

In nutitisia ayu siha na petson I man inafefekta espesiåtmente para ayo I man kuålifikao na man åmko, yan/man inutit, yan pumalu siha na indibiduåt ni man interesao, yan I pupbliku henerårt komu man interesao man pattisiapao gi man plånun este na inadulånta para u ma'ågang si Siñot George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor, yan Siñora Gregoria O. Sablan, Siñot Frank Iglecias, LIHEAP Staff, gi DCCA ofisinan gi este siha na numirun tilifon 664-2568 pat 664-2569.

Para u guaha siha inekungok publiku para ufan ma kondukta giya Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. Todu eyu siha man interesao na petsona man masosohyu para u ma'atiende este siha na inekungok.

Para mås infotmasion pat finaisen, pot fabot ågang I tilifon siha ni ma'mensiona pat bisita I ofisinå-ta giya Capital Hill, Numiron I gima #1344.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP

Dipattamentool Lemelemil Sóóbw me Kko (Community me Cultural Affairs - DC&CA), Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) sángi milleel nge ekke arongaar toulap igha ekke mángiiy bwe ebwe féérú seféliiy yaar State Plan reel ráágh ye 2009. E pwal aschuuschu ngáli milikkewe seigh me faawu (14) ikka re akkulééw ngáli Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands reel igha ebwe mmwelil bweibwogh selaapi, nge e bwal allégh ngáli ghamam bwe aybwe fféér ripood reel meeta kka e ghatch, weires ikka e ghal yoor fitoowula ráágh mwir igha eyoorota progróóma yeel. Mille LIHEAP nge e ayoora alillis reel apatapat/dengkki me alillis ngaliir schookka eghi sossol abwossuur.

Aykke arongaar schookka re toolong llol alillis yeel ikka eghi sossol abwossuur, tuufey/ikka rese bwang, me ikka re mwuschal fengal me toulap ikka re tipali bwe rebwe toolong llol progrooma yeel bwe rebwe ffaingiir Sóumwár George S. Fitial, LIHEAP Supervisor, me llimwár Gregoria O. Sablan me/ngare Sóumwár Frank Iglecias, LIHEAP Staff reel numurool tilifoon kka 664-2569 ngare 664-2568 me ngáre tooto llól Bwulasiyo iye elo Capitol Hill house #1344.

Ebwe yoor arongorong ngáliir toulap wóól Luuta, Tchúlúyól me Seipél. Aramas ye e tipáli nge rekke tingór ngáliir bwe rebwe tooto llól iyéélágh kkaal.

/s/ **Melvin L.O. Faisao**
Acting Secretary, DCCA

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-2008-054**
Position Title: **SCHOOL PRINCIPAL I-III**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED**
Opening Date: **August 7, 2008**
Location: PSS **– SAIPAN / TINIAN / ROTA**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00-$60,000.00**
Closing Date: **August 22, 2008**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements:
Master's Degree with a Major in Educational Administration or related field.
Minimum of 6 years experience; 3 years teaching experience and 3 years of successful experience as a school administrator or related leadership management field. Possess a valid CNMI Administrators Certificate. Pass PRAXIS I (PPST) & PRAXIS II Content Knowledge Test.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

Announcement No: **PSS-2008-055**
Position Title: **SCHOOL VICE-PRINCIPAL I-II**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED**
Opening Date: **August 7, 2008**
Location: **PSS - SAIPAN / TINIAN / ROTA**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Per Annum Salary: **$40,00.00-$50,000.00**
Closing Date: **August 22, 2008**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements:
School Vice Principal I - Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Education or related area plus three (3) years experience in teaching or education administration. Pass PRAXIS I (PPST) & PRAXIS II Content Knowledge Test.

School Vice Principal II - Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Master's Degree in Education or related area plus three (3) years experience in teaching or education administration and must hold a valid administrator certification. Pass PRAXIS I (PPST) & PRAXIS II Content Knowledge Test.

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

Announcement No: **PSS-072-2007**
(Amendment/Re-Announcement II)
Position Title: **Procurement & Supply Officer**
Pay Level/Step: **35 / 01-12**
Opening Date: **August 11, 2008**
Location: **PSS – Procurement & Supply Office, Administrative Services Division**
Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Per Annum Salary: **$28,807.51 - $49,266.21**
Closing Date: **August 25, 2008**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements: **Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree and at least six (6) years of procurement and supply work experience or related work experience, or Master's degree and (4) years work experience.**

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX0 MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

SHEFA doubles grant amounts as applications soar

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance has doubled the grant-in-aid amount to its qualified scholars at the beginning of Fall 2008 semester even as the number of new applicants reached around 600 this year, according to a statement from the Office of Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela.

The current rate is $600 for on-island and $1,000 for off-island scholars. This would mean that on-island scholars would get $1,200 in the next Fall term while off-island scholars would take $2,000.

The Mayor's Office said SHEFA's latest figure is an all time record high and a sharp contrast to the 200 applications received during the program's inception in August 2004.

Tudela

Records show that for the Fall 2008 term, a total of 4,062 applications were received, including 1,708 new and 2,355 continuing.

The lists also reveal that 2,044 applicants indicated an intention to pursue their college education on Saipan while 2,019 opted to study outside Saipan such as Guam, Hawaii and the U.S. mainland.

These data, the Mayor's Office said, indicate there is a big preference by college students to study abroad than at home.

The 13th Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation under chair Pete Reyes and Speaker Heinz Hofscheider established the program, with current House Speaker Arnold Palacios as its principal author.

SHEFA provides supplementary financial assistance to qualified resident of Saipan, including the Northern Islands. Recipients are expected to return to Saipan after successfully completing a higher education.

Aside from doubling the grant-in aid amount, the SHEFA Board is also making preparations to promulgate regulations to govern part-time enrollment in accredited colleges and universities effective in Spring semester.

Discussions are being done about this loan program and a meeting of the members of the Legislature is scheduled this week.

The Mayor's office said the SHEFA Board has already acted on the first four batches of completed applications last month, adding that the official request to process SHEFA checks was forwarded to the Finance Officer.

It said that SHEFA will begin sending out notices via email after the checks had already been processed by Finance and physically released by the Treasury.

SHEFA is wholly funded through poker operations on Saipan. The funds are taken from the amusement licenses and fees collected quarterly from arcade operators.

Math and science fill high school students' summer

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kenlyn Butters, far right, poses with friends at the Seymour Marine Lab in California.

Three students from Northern Marianas College's Educational Talent Search program recently returned from an off-island trip after sharpening their math and science skills at colleges in California and Hawaii.

The ETS program was invited to send active participants to the Math and Science summer program, which is designed to strengthen the math and science skills of participants. The goal of the program is to help students, mainly sophomores and juniors, recognize and develop their potential to excel in math and science and encourage them to pursue postsecondary degrees in these fields.

Kenlyn Butters, an incoming senior at Kagman High School, and Elton Escaros, an incoming junior at Marianas High School, flew to California to attend the summer program at Monterey Peninsula Community College. Naomi Cabrera, an incoming junior at Kagman High School, attended the summer program at Leeward Community College in Hawaii.

"The classes we took were beyond my expectations," said Butters. "There were like regular classes, only condensed into a short period of time."

The summer programs lasted for six weeks and exposed the students to classes that offered intensive math and science training. The students were also afforded the opportunity to interact with faculty who conduct research in math and science and were allowed to conduct research procedure under the supervision of faculty members.

"There were students from California, Arizona, Idaho, Oregon, Saipan, Marshall Islands, Pohnpei, Guam, Nevada and Hawaii," said Butters. "During the time we were living together and basically doing things together, the whole group has bonded so strong that it became really hard to say goodbye." ***(PR)***

GOTCHA! CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A van owned by the Department of Public Safety's Emergency Management Services is parked along a No Parking section in front of a building in San Jose. A concerned citizen took this picture, saying the police themselves seem to have a hard time following rules. The concerned citizen said the driver of the van saw the No Parking sign but elected to ignore it, even if there was no emergency necessitating his parking in that particular section.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENOKO	008E	8/2 Sat	7/31 Thu	7/31 Thu	7/22 Tue	7/26 Sat	8/8 Fri	8/4 Mon	8/3 Sun	7/29 Tue	7/20 Sun	8/4 Mon	8/8 Fri	8/9 Sat	8/12 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	013E	8/9 Sat	8/7 Thu	8/7 Thu	7/29 Tue	8/2 Sat	8/15 Fri	8/11 Mon	8/10 Sun	8/5 Tue	7/27 Sun	8/11 Mon	8/15 Fri	8/16 Sat	8/19 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	021E	8/16 Sat	8/14 Thu	8/14 Thu	8/5 Tue	8/9 Sat	8/22 Fri	8/18 Mon	8/17 Sun	8/12 Tue	8/3 Sun	8/18 Mon	8/22 Fri	8/23 Sat	8/26 Tue
MELL SENOKO	009E	8/23 Sat	8/21 Thu	8/21 Thu	8/12 Tue	8/16 Sat	8/29 Fri	8/25 Mon	8/24 Sun	8/19 Tue	8/10 Sun	8/25 Mon	8/29 Fri	8/30 Sat	9/2 Tue
MELL SINGAPORE	014E	8/30 Sat	8/28 Thu	8/28 Thu	8/19 Tue	8/23 Sat	9/5 Fri	9/1 Mon	8/31 Sun	8/26 Tue	8/17 Sun	9/1 Mon	9/5 Fri	9/6 Sat	9/9 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	022E	9/6 Sat	9/4 Thu	9/4 Thu	8/26 Tue	8/30 Sat	9/12 Fri	9/8 Mon	9/7 Sun	9/2 Tue	8/24 Sun	9/8 Mon	9/12 Fri	9/13 Sat	9/16 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENOKO	008E	8/16 Sat	8/17 Sun	8/17 Sun	8/19 Tue	8/20 Wed	8/22 Fri	8/23 Sat	8/26 Tue	8/29 Fri	8/30 Sat	9/4 Thu	9/2 Tue	8/31 Sun	9/3 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	013E	8/23 Sat	8/24 Sun	8/24 Sun	SKIP	8/27 Wed	8/29 Fri	8/30 Sat	9/2 Tue	9/5 Fri	9/6 Sat	9/11 Thu	9/9 Tue	9/7 Sun	9/10 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	021E	8/30 Sat	8/31 Sun	8/31 Sun	9/2 Tue	9/3 Wed	9/5 Fri	9/6 Sat	9/9 Tue	9/12 Fri	9/13 Sat	9/18 Thu	9/16 Tue	9/14 Sun	9/17 Wed
MELL SENOKO	009E	9/6 Sat	9/7 Sun	9/7 Sun	SKIP	9/10 Wed	9/12 Fri	9/13 Sat	9/16 Tue	9/19 Fri	9/20 Sat	9/25 Thu	9/23 Tue	9/21 Sun	9/24 Wed
MELL SINGAPORE	014E	9/13 Sat	9/14 Sun	9/14 Sun	9/16 Tue	9/17 Wed	9/19 Fri	9/20 Sat	9/23 Tue	9/26 Fri	9/27 Sat	10/2 Thu	9/30 Tue	9/28 Sun	10/1 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	021E	9/20 Sat	9/21 Sun	9/21 Sun	SKIP	9/24 Wed	9/26 Fri	9/27 Sat	9/30 Tue	10/3 Fri	10/4 Sat	10/9 Thu	10/7 Tue	10/5 Sun	10/8 Wed

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MEMORIAL RITES

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Mariana Blue Corp. president Yuka Kitamura, Buddhist priest Shorin Shaku and other members gather for a photo shortly after a ceremony at the Japanese Peace Memorial near the Last Command Post in Marpi yesterday morning.

LIVESTRONG SUMMIT

Maggie Camacho met with Guam delegates at the Livestrong Summit. The summit united cancer advocates, health care experts and elected officials from around the nation. From left to right, Faye, Donna, Terry, Marie and Maggie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROTA VISITORS

Lourdes Manglona, the resident director for the Rota Arts Council, demonstrates the art of coconut leaf weaving to visiting guests on Rota. Kinki Nippon Tourist continues its promotional efforts by bringing them to Rota to experience island life. The maiden voyage from Nagoya arrived on Rota on Aug. 12, to be followed by another flight from Osaka. Different Japanese cities are being introduced to Rota.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A sand painter from Rota shows the Japanese guest the steps in sand painting.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 13, 2001

Fund's portfolio lost $3.96 million in June

The off-island portfolio of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund went South this June, losing more than $3.96 million as the total rate-of-return slid to a negative 1.09 percent. As a result, the total losses incurred by the Fund's off-island investments covering the period from October 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001, went up a notch to $38,269,516, representing a negative 9.61 percent rate-of-return from the start of the fiscal year.

NMC anticipates higher nonresident enrollment

The Northern Marianas College projects a dramatic increase in the number of enrollees starting this academic year due to the anticipated entry of more nonresident students. The projection came following the NMC's recent revision of tuition policy relating to nonresident students, which is expected to benefit at least 364 non-US students.

NMIRF hires referral firm

With a September 1 effectivity in mind, the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund on Friday signed the contract hiring a Hawaii-based medical referral firm that would handle the off-island referrals for Group Health and Life Insurance. According to Fund Administrator Juan S. Torres, he has already signed the contract and has forwarded it to Vicente Camacho, Chairman of the Fund's Board of Trustee, for his signature. During Thursday's board meeting, we agreed to push for the contract's signing as early as possible because we want it to become effective by September 1," Torres said.

August 13, 2002

Longer wait for rebates

Finance Secretary Frankie Villanueva said yesterday that the government will not be able to beat the deadline for the release of all rebate checks but, in the same breath, he assured that the entire amount would eventually be paid. As for the tax refund checks, Villanueva said that, after paying out for the scholarship checks, his department will review the government's cash position and will hopefully release a minimum of $250,000 this week. He did not specify, though, how many checks this will translate to.

Bank assets shrink 5.7 percent

In what could be a glaring impact of the controversy that hounded the Bank of Saipan, bank assets shrank 5.7 percent during the period covering March to April 2002, according to a report obtained from the CNMI Department of Commerce. Bank loans fell to $266.8 million in the second quarter of the year-at the same time when Bank of Saipan was placed under receivership-from $283 million in the quarter earlier.

CPA enforces tighter cost-cutting program

The significant slowdown in airport and seaport activities is forcing the Commonwealth Ports Authority to implement additional belt-tightening measures. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said, however, that the cost-cutting measures will not hamper airport and seaport operations nor will it affect safety and security programs. Salas explained that the cost-cutting measures will be instituted to sustain the ports authority's effective management of all airports and harbors across the Northern Marianas on a 24-7 basis.

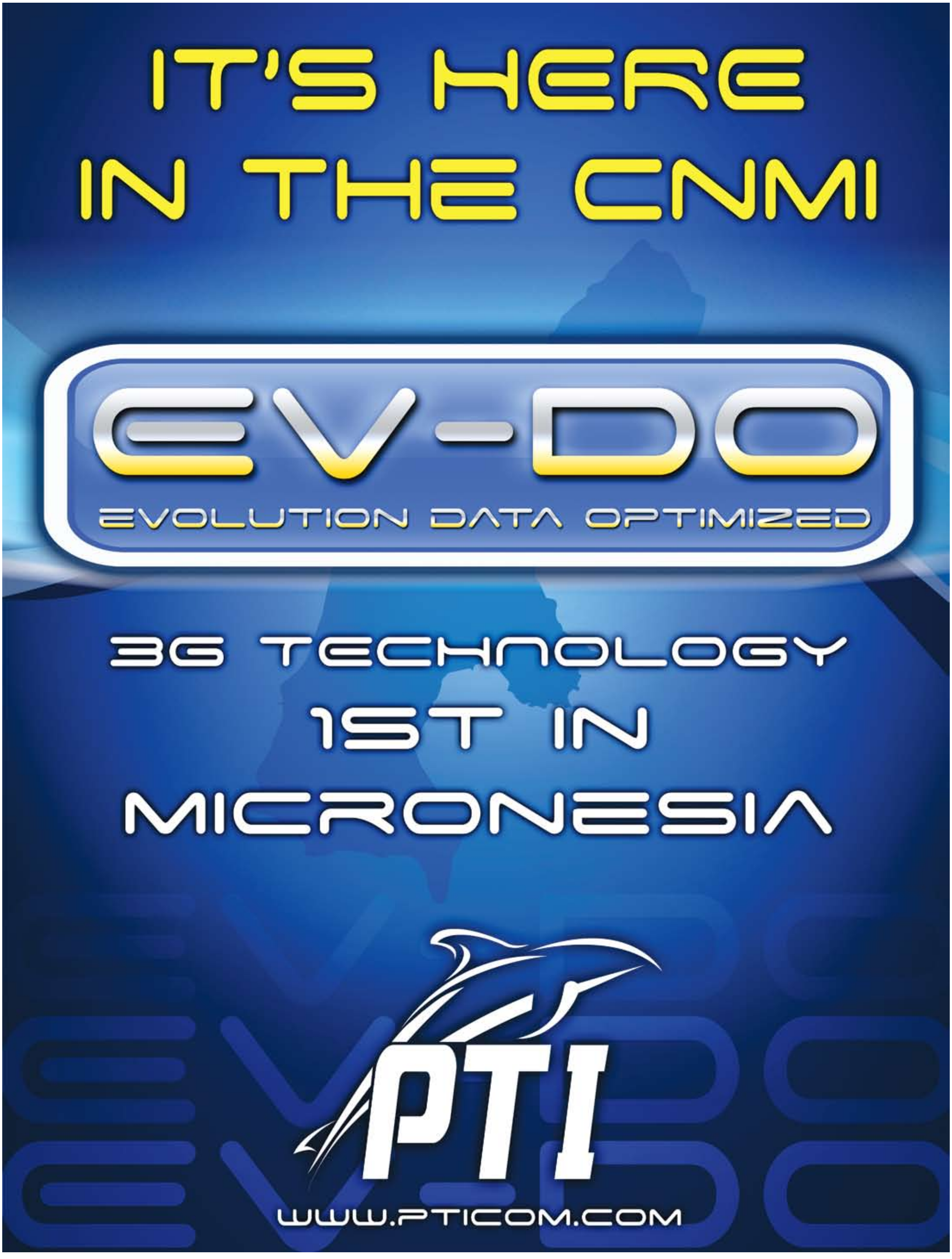
August 13, 2003

'Balanced budget achievable'

With less than two months to go before the fiscal year ends, Gov. Juan N. Babauta said the CNMI government is close to achieving what has never been done for several years now-a balanced budget. This explains the additional belt-tightening measures that he had issued last week, which included prohibitions against purchases and contracts without his approval, he said.

Over $3M needed for new classrooms

The Public School System is asking the Legislature to reprogram over $3.8 million for the immediate construction of new classrooms. Based on its latest assessment, PSS said it urgently needs the money to resolve the overcrowding in four schools: Garapan and Kagman elementary schools, Kagman High School, and Saipan Southern High School, as well as Garapan Head Start.


IT'S HERE
IN THE CNMI
EV-DO
EVOLUTION DATA OPTIMIZED
3G TECHNOLOGY
1ST IN
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Russia's dare

Much that had been in the category of speculation about modern Russia hardened over the weekend into ugly fact. Many had suspected that Vladimir Putin never intended to allow a mere constitution to force him to cede power after eight years in the Kremlin, and the president-turned-prime-minister certainly seemed to be in charge of Russia's invasion of neighboring Georgia. Many had theorized that a nation willing, in the service of imperial ambition, to manipulate oil and gas supplies, impose trade blockades, unleash cyber-attacks, and sponsor or at least tolerate assassinations of enemies abroad might not hesitate to wield outright military force; that supposition, too, was confirmed. Having watched Mr. Putin's destruction of a free press in Russia, some might have wondered how far he would go in distorting reality. His brazen invocation of the Big Lie to justify Russia's aggression—accusing Georgia of "complete genocide"—provided an answer.

The question now is how the United States and Europe will respond to a reality that can no longer be denied. In the short term, as the Bush administration has said, the allies' goal must be an end to Russia's attacks on Georgia and a cease-fire in the disputed Georgian territories of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. That should be followed by the introduction to those provinces of a neutral peacekeeping force—no one can take seriously any longer the fiction of Russian "peacekeepers"—and international mediation. Russian objection would, if nothing else, provide one more clarifying moment.

This weekend's fighting was provoked by Russian-advised South Ossetian separatists; Georgia foolishly responded to the provocation; and Russia was ready to roll in with a large armored force. Does Russia now want to advance further into Georgia? Or does it want to keep Georgia's democracy in a perpetual state of tension? Neither is acceptable, and the West should be formulating policies for either possibility.

In the longer term, the West will have to decide whether to continue its effort to soothe and placate Mr. Putin, as if he were a petulant child who could be bought off with candy and words of praise, or whether to rise to the geopolitical challenge his regime poses. Separate European nations (especially Germany) have thought that they could save themselves by cutting separate deals with Russia for oil and gas. They have tried to avert their eyes as Russia cut oil supplies to show its displeasure with European Union members such as the Czech Republic or Lithuania. Will they now unite to strengthen their position?

Meanwhile, as nations on Russia's periphery such as Georgia and Ukraine have turned west for help in safeguarding their independence, the West has responded ambivalently, offering sympathy but often little else. Russia's theory no doubt is that its aggression in Georgia will scare the West further away. Will that theory, too, harden into ugly truth, or will the West understand that it cannot buy peace by tendering the sovereignty of vulnerable nations?

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DEVICE USED TO MEASURE the TIME GAP BETWEEN HIGHER OIL PRICES and HIGHER PRICES AT the PUMP.
DEVICE USED TO MEASURE the TIME GAP BETWEEN LOWER OIL PRICES and LOWER PRICES AT the PUMP.
AUGUST

Writer left her energy in Rielle's room

By SARAH MILLER
Special to the Los Angeles Times

I blame myself.

It is totally my fault. Well, maybe it's my energy's fault. But wait—do we control our energy? Don't we just, like, attract what we put out? Anyway, I have really powerful energy, and I refused to respect it, and now it's too late.

What I'm trying to say is that it's my fault that Rielle Hunter had an affair with John Edwards. It's my fault his display of moral laxness let down his supporters, let down the country. It's my fault he cheated on his cancer-stricken wife and betrayed his three children.

Let me explain. I, like every other New Yorker who valued their life, moved to Los Angeles in October 2001. I rented a room in a house in Benedict Canyon, owned by a friend of a friend, and lived there for almost a year.

When I moved out of that room—and I don't mind telling you at this point that Harrison Ford did the built-ins in the den and possibly some of the kitchen cabinetry—Rielle Hunter moved in.

The homeowner who had been a friend of a friend had, by virtue of my stay, became a close friend, so I was still over at the house a lot. Rielle padded in and out in Ugg boots and flared yoga pants, and in a voice that contained strange elements of surfer-ese and lockjaw, gave unasked-for information about her life's journey and personal health. She would tell us how she'd had an amazing yoga practice that day, or give an elaborate description of some braised root she'd eaten for lunch. I think I said to my friend once, "What a wack job," but that was the extent of my relationship with Rielle.

Then, one afternoon about five years ago, I arrived for a party at the house. For better or worse, I have a near-perfect recollection of what followed.

I had barely poured myself a drink when Rielle came bounding up to me. Her eyes weren't just glowing. They were kind of spinning in her face. I am almost sure that she was not drunk: This was how she always looked, only at this moment, she looked more that way than usual.

"Hi, sweetie," she said, laying two fingers on my wrist. "It is sooo amazing to me that I am living in your room."

"Is it?"

I tried not to make it obvious that I was backing away from her. I am a Yankee, and the unsolicited use of the word "sweetie," particularly combined with physical contact, makes me extremely tense.

"I can't imagine why."

She gave me a sort of coy look, like she knew I knew what she was talking about.

"Aren't you rich and famous?"

I seriously thought she had me confused with someone else.

"I'm Sarah Miller," I said, thinking this would clear everything up. "I live in Echo Park now. I'm a magazine writer. I have a cat with one eye."

Truly, I had nothing else to say about myself.

She continued to give me that coy look.

"Didn't you write an essay for the book `The Bitch in the House'?"

I had, like many people who write for a living, completely forgotten about an essay I had written some months earlier that had wound up in Cathi Hanauer's anthology.

"Yes," I said, and added, because I thought it might bring to the conversation a sense of measure it was sorely lacking, "That article paid for maybe two months of my car insurance. It would have paid for three, but I got a point."

She looked up, her face lit with happy incredulity.

"You wrote that article that was published in an actual book that is in stores, in the room I sleep in. In the bed I sleep in."

The homeowner had told her I wrote in bed.

"It's amazing," Rielle said. "I can feel your energy in there."

"But ... I have been gone for so long," I protested. "Surely my energy has decamped as well."

This had no effect on her. She kept staring at me, that weird glaze still over her face.

"Oh, no," she said. "You have really strong energy, and I can feel it in there, and it's telling me what I want to be."

"And what is that?" I asked, knowing that it was probably too much to hope that what she wanted to be was the person who would get me another drink and then go away.

"I am going to be famous," Rielle said. "Rich and famous. I am going to meet a rich, powerful man."

I was by now leaning against the kitchen cabinetry, and the fact that it was holding me up made me almost certain that Harrison Ford's virility had gone into its construction.

"Wow," I said. "How are you going to do that?"

Rielle slid a toe out from under the tip of her flared yoga pants and poked me with it, playfully.

"I'm going to manifest it," she said.

I couldn't play along anymore.

"Good luck," I said. "I just ... I don't really believe in stuff like that."

She backed away from me now, a conspiratorial smile on her face.

"You don't have to," she said. "I'm just going to keep using your amazing energy, and you'll see."

For the remainder of the year or so she lived there, Rielle continued to prattle on about how amazing it was to live in a room that had been inhabited by a famous published writer.

My friend tried to explain how I had been a writer before moving in there. She even found herself shouting at her one day, "Sarah is not famous," and afterward feeling guilty, as if she had put me down.

Rielle was not to be dissuaded. She was convinced that this room had been magical for me and would be magical for her.

I'm glad it was magical for one of us.

Miller is the author of Inside the Mind of Gideon Rayburn.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Suspended animation

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Just as soon as I get things together in life
then I'll do all those things I want to
I'm just waiting for things to get better in life
so I can make all my wishes come true

But the days come and go much too quickly in life
I progress, but I'm never quite there
I remain in a state of stark fear towards life
all my days seem suspended in air

Seems I spend the time waiting and miss out on this life
delaying all my "now" moments til "then"
I forsake precious days and then curse at this life
Asking "Why not now?" "If not now, when?"

But it can't stay this way now forever in life
this I said and I thought it was true
But it will 'til I learn that the secret of life
is that dreams come to life when I do!

P.S.
So get up off your "buts" and meet head on with life
from time's passage no one can long hide
no you can't stop the clock by delaying your life
for it's true time will not be denied

Commentary: Don't Let This Happen To You

As I was writing today's inspiration, I came across this excerpt from a book entitled *The Seven Stories of Love: And How To Choose Your Happy Ending* by Marcia Millman. It provides another perspective on this concept.

"Many avoiders of love were hurt before and don't want to risk being hurt again; postponers unconsciously equate making a commitment with aging and death; cynics focus only on their partners' flaws instead of looking within themselves and seeing that they are projecting their own self-hatred....People who postpone and avoid love commitments are often living in a state of suspended animation—they are not moving forward but are often frozen in a time of their past. They believe that by delaying a commitment, they have stopped the clock. But....while they put things on hold, time passes them by. Instead of preserving life, they lose it.

For people like this to change and open themselves to love, they must have a powerful shock that makes them see that it's really now or never. As long as people are comfortable living with the defenses they've constructed, they don't have any motivation to change and they'll live as if they have forever. Only those who find the courage to risk love, with all its dangers, truly gain life and a kind of immortality."

Of course, today's advice can be taken and applied to matters of love as well as business. What dreams have you been postponing waiting for things to get better before you dare to live them?

Note: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

Note: There's a new blog in town! Check out www.blacksonsaipan.com

■■■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

Letters to the Editor

Thanks Taotao Tano, Public Auditor and Feds

I just want to express my appreciation for Taotao Tano's efforts in pursuing an investigation of CUC. Although Greg has not always supported me, he and Taotao Tano are still due this appreciation. In my culture and language of Ebonics you must give a person their "props" (due appreciation and respect), especially when they prove themselves right. I must also thank the Public Auditor for doing an excellent job in providing the badly needed check on our government. Needless to say, I was shocked to find out it was true but not surprised after the Washington incident and, although we know people are innocent until proven guilty, it is very unlikely the Feds are wrong in this case. The Feds don't make many mistakes, especially with such a high profile individual. I have compassion for the accused and their families and I will pray for them.

But more important is that maybe the mass suffering of the people arising from CUC problems will now take a turn for the better. There is no telling what will be discovered nor will we ever know how much the alleged criminal behavior has affected the degradation of the situation at our power plants. I feel sorry for the accused but I am very happy for the people. I am just thankful the Feds are on their job and the arrest also re-affirmed my strong belief that *it will take the Feds to save the people of the CNMI from their own leaders*. All of those who boasted "we can do it ourselves" can now shut up because the proof is in the details—you can't!

Further proof is in the details of the Feds' own admission about the detrimental impact of federalization, which is something every citizen with common sense knew but our leaders were so busy playing politics and couldn't wait for the process to correct itself before we started fighting. The administration should have been fixing the power problem from Day 1 and now we see the bigger picture of the problem. We are also right back where we started with the feds and in all the fuss and fighting we destroyed considerable political real estate in Washington by approaching the challenge of federalization in a fighting mode."

The power situation is now at an all-time low and the administration is still waiting to see what the Feds are going to do about federalization. All I can say is thanks to Taotao Tano, the Public Auditor and the Feds for the vigilant persistence in your efforts to protect and serve the people of the CNMI—a job that is really designated for the Executive Office in our Constitution. I'm sure people with common sense, even those who were complaining about federalization, have found a new appreciation for the Feds because it's clear the Feds are the only ones doing the protecting where we need protecting most. This whole thing with the power was really a wake-up call about our politics and I can only wonder how many citizens that weren't already awake got it.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

No more

No more. If you are a resident of the CNMI, you have probably heard this phrase many times recently. No more money, no more gas, no more power. Thanks to the wonderful abilities of certain people in the CNMI to outstandingly mismanage funds where we need it most, we have almost no more of anything. We are like that kingdom in the Bible, which in its good years did not save anything for the drought to follow, and had to beg food from the kingdom that did. Nearly depleted funds have led to us having very little fuel and not having enough money to fix our outdated power plant, which in turn led to constant, frequent power outages. One might say it will all be over around mid-September, right? The only problem with that is the Agrekko deal only lasts 52 weeks.

Busted!

Thanks to the feds, a small victory for the people of the CNMI has been won. Because of people like Tim Villagomez and Anthony Guerrero, we are now suffering for their mistakes. Their get-rich-quick scams played a part in why CUC is broke and we face these daily outages. How dare they think they are above the law. These greedy boys think they can scam the people of the CNMI. Impeach him, he does not deserve to be Lt. Governor. Guerrero already pleaded guilty, and now Villagomez and the Santos' will be going down as well. Too bad the FBI is only investigating federal funds. Can you imagine how many local funds have been stolen as well?

It just shows that CUC needs to be privatized and kept free from politics. See what happens when there are too many appointee positions? Those who get appointed are usually family or friends of the administration who are willing to do whatever for the administration in order to get ahead and leave the people behind.

I can't wait for other heads to roll. Thank you, Uncle Sam.

Jeff Flores
Koblerville

Enough already!

I'm writing this in response to John S. DelRosario's letter. He sounds well educated. Having said that, does the U.S. treat the indigenous people that badly? I wonder how the Japanese would have treated all of you if they had won. I wonder if the government would be staffed by locals and rest of us would lazily barbecue the day away?

Secondly, let's add up all the monies the U.S. government has been giving the CNMI, add this up and that's how much the U.S. should ask for as a selling price to the Japanese. This price would be way overpriced as the Japanese would probably lowball us.

Thirdly, do you think there would be a DCCA office and the kids would speak in the indigenous language? No! They would be speaking Japanese. Don't take my word for it, ask the Okinawans!

Enough of this nonsense, John. Before you ask me to leave our beautiful island, give me that blue passport of yours and I will hand it in for you.

Woodrow W. Slater
via e-mail

Leave it to the Governor to leave the Business Development Independence Bank's offer of a 15-megawatt power plant hanging, while here we are on Saipan with a temporary lease on a plant, which we would pay for more monthly! And I thought that no one with the CNMI's true interests in mind could refuse that offer! Oh well.

I recently learned that my teacher, Mr. John Davis of Marianas High School, was running for the congressional delegate position, and I will tell you, if you want a man with knowledge of the U.S. government and its many affairs, laws, and regulations, he is your man. After all, he is an Advanced Placement U.S. Government teacher. He teaches about the U.S. government for a living! He also teaches Advanced Placement Language Arts, therefore you can be sure he knows how to write and speak very proficiently. Another plus is that he has been residing in the CNMI for 22 years to date, and is very familiar with all of the hardships and issues the CNMI has had to face, not just from talking with his students about issues, but from experiencing them himself.

If you are one of those people who is tired of how politicians win by promising jobs, making and taking bribes, and favoring their relatives, I am confident that you would be glad to vote for John Davis, who is also tired of that and wants to "bring integrity into the federal office" and who wants "someone to fight for the CNMI, not for their own pocketbooks or prestige or glory." So, for all the people who oppose the current way of our politicians, you know what to do; it's not up to the Governor this time.

Kalani Reyes
MHS student

Thank you

Please allow me to say a few words of appreciation to the people of Rota and the warm welcome accorded me during our recent gathering at the Rota Museum also known as Taisacan Beach, on Aug. 9, 2008.

Although the crowd was fair in numbers it encouraged me more to discuss very important issues that all of us in the CNMI would like to see pushed through in Washington come January of 2009. Issues such as how the implementation of federal immigration would affect our economy and our labor situation, environmental issues, transportation issues, the military buildup in the CNMI and many more that we will be debating on as we get closer to election day.

The warm reception that you have given me is indicative of your desire in ensuring that all of these issues that are important to us and the survival of our economy can be assured if you vote and place a fellow Democrat such as myself in a Democrat-controlled Congress and maybe a Democrat White House. In Washington, political affiliation is very important if our voices are to be heard and I know that I can muster the support of longtime friends in Washington, D.C.

Again, on behalf of our chairman, Manny Sablan and my families, I would like to extend our appreciation for the hospitality during our recent gathering in Rota. Special thanks to Matias Taisacan and his family for the use of your beachfront property and also to our Rota Democrat chair Norbert Mundo. *Un dang kulu na si yuus maase.*

David M. Cing
Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼76°

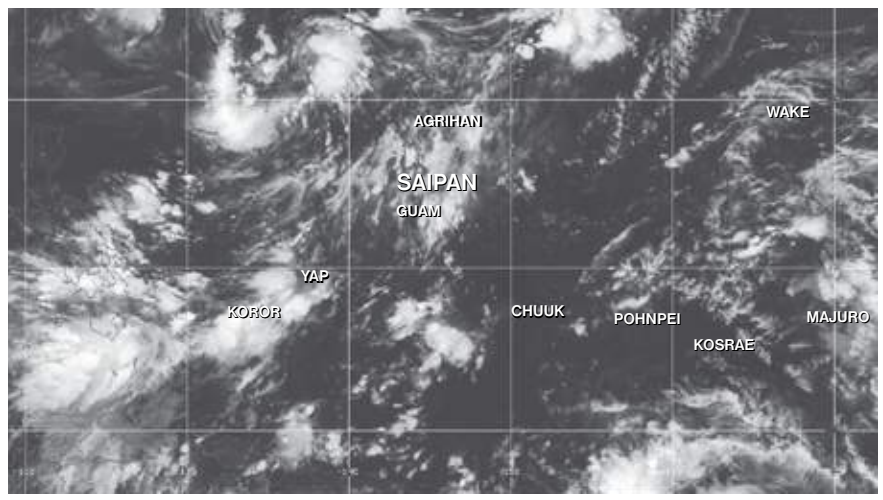
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲57	▼48
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲88	▼73
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼75
London	Showers	▲70	▼58
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼66
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲53	▼41
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲91	▼79
New York	Cloudy	▲84	▼69
Osaka	Cloudy	▲85	▼75
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼53
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼66
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼56
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲74	▼55
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲87	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough running from about 8N142E to 17N142E to beyond 25N136E coupled with upper-level divergence is producing patchy areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within an area bounded by a line running from 25N132E to 13N131E to 12N137E to 19N146E to 24N145E back to 25N132E. This area is west and north of Guam. Trade-wind convergence and upper-level divergence are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 100 miles south of a line running from 5N135E to 3N140E. This area is south of Palau and Yap. A surface trough running from EQ154E to 8N160E coupled with upper-level divergence is producing patchy areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 140 miles of the trough axis. Some of these showers are near Pohnpei. Another surface trough running from 8N166E to 15N170E under the same large area of upper level divergence mentioned above is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line running from 11N168E to 14N174E. This area is north of Kwajalein and Majuro. An upper-level trough running from 3N180 to 8N177E coupled with trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of 6N176E and within 60 miles of a line running from 1N177E to 4N180. These areas are southeast of Majuro.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:41AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:36AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
7:06PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02AM	6:42 PM
Thursday	6:02AM	6:41 PM
Friday	6:02AM	6:40 PM
Saturday	6:03AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	6:03AM	6:39 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:01PM	2:29AM
Thursday	4:49AM	3:23 PM
Friday	5:33AM	4:17 PM
Saturday	6:14AM	5:10 PM
Sunday	6:53AM	6:03 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,094.100
Up 24.800
(+0.49%)

HONG KONG
22,236.88
Up 377.54
(+1.73%)

JAKARTA
2,098.4709
Down 35.449
(-1.66%)

TOKYO
13,342.49
Down 88.42
(-0.66%)

K. LUMPUR
1,127.46
Up 7.15
(+0.64%)

MANILA
2,755.86
Down 12.66
(-0.46%)

SINGAPORE
2,838.80
Up 13.41
(+0.47%)

SEOUL
1,585.06
Up 3.97
(+0.25%)

BANGKOK
702.93
Up 12.23
(+1.77%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
11,782.35
+48.03

NASDAQ
2,439.95
+25.85

S&P
1,305.31
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1395
British Pound	0.5253
Canadian Dollar	1.0703
Chinese Renmbi	6.8625
Euro	0.6718
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8046
Indian Rupee	42.288
Indonesian Rupiah	9183.5
Japanese Yen	110.185
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3338
New Zealand Dollar	1.4344
Philippine Peso	44.595
Singapore Dollar	1.4111
South Korean Won	1034.2
Swiss Franc	1.0884
Taiwan Dollar	31.16
Thailand Baht	33.855

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Guam real estate market activity plummets

During the first half of 2008, Guam's overall real estate sales activity dropped by over 40 percent compared with 2007 figures, according to the Captain Real Estate Group.

Captain Real Estate Group reported that through June 2008, islandwide annualized 2008 sales volume reflected $409.3 million, down by over 40 percent from the $686.8 million in sales reflected during 2007.

According to Nick Captain, Guam's real estate market remains strong and the massive decline must be considered on a relative basis.

"The pace of real estate sales during 2008 is tracking just under that reflected during 2006, and that's more than double the annual sales volume in 2004 and 2005," said Captain.

The 2008 market slowdown was exacerbated by a series of local government actions that have resulted in a reduction in the potential profits associated with real estate investment and development. These actions include mortgage recordation fee hikes, utility connection and rate increases, and most recently, a development moratorium.

"The development moratorium was a fatal blow to numerous potential developers considering investing on Guam", according to Captain. "We look forward to a resolution of the moratorium issue as quickly as possible."

Captain noted that the government related issues were not the only factors behind the real estate market slowdown in 2008.

"Probably the most significant issue impacting transaction activity is the wide gap between buyer and seller expectations," said Captain.

Additional factors include notably higher prices (following significant price growth between 2004 and 2007), competition for foreign investment (destination such as Florida, Las Vegas and Southern California have suffered massive price declines since 2006) and fewer high-priced "trophy" asset sales, such as hotels and golf courses (partially due to global credit and liquidity issues).

Commercial properties led the decline with annualized sales down by over 70 percent during the first half of 2008. Last year's sales activity was highlighted by the sale of the 228,000 square foot Guam Premier Outlets Shopping Center.

"Guam's commercial real estate sales volume periodically fluctuates and the global credit and liquidity squeeze means that last year's record commercial sales volume of $76.8 million is unlikely to be surpassed in the near term," said Captain.

Apartment building sales activity during the first half of 2008 declined by over 60 percent "primarily due to limited supply of quality product" noted Captain. Land and condominium sectors both declined by over 30 percent compared to 2007.

The 2008 single family residential real estate market on Guam reflected a decline in sales volume of less than 10 percent compared with 2007. However, sales volume in 2008 is 10 percent higher than 2006, a strong indicator of local consumer confidence.

After three years of double digit percentage growth, the median price of a Guam single family dwelling stabilized during the first half of 2008. The median price of a single family dwelling during the second quarter of 2008 reflected $199,100. The 203 houses sold during the second quarter of 2008 reflected the second strongest quarter in over a decade.

Captain reported that high priced residential property sales are especially weak due to the wide gap between seller and buyer expectations. For example, only two houses on Guam sold at prices above $500,000 during the second quarter of 2008 while more than 50 are currently listed for sale in the Multiple Listing Service. The median price of a condominium unit on Guam reflected $130,000 during the second quarter, the lowest median price since early 2007.

Also during the second quarter, condominium unit sales volume at 68 units sold was the slowest in over two years. However, 2008 condominium sales include the $1,600,000 sale of a Tumon beachfront unit, a record post-bubble price. The most significant real estate transactions on Guam during the first half of 2008 included the $3.0 million sale of 10 acres of former federal excess land along Route 3, the $2.75 million sale of 5 acres of land along Pago Bay and a $2.45 million sale of 70,000 square meters of residential land in Yigo.

In other news, Nick Captain was selected to represent the national organization Counselors of Real Estate as Chief Delegate at the upcoming Pan Pacific Congress conference this September in Seoul, Korea. ***(PR)***

Health care costs seen to rise by 10 percent in 2009

Health care costs are expected to rise more than 10 percent into next year, according to a survey of insurers by Aon Consulting Worldwide.

But that increase is the smallest Aon has seen in six years. Experts say it shows that efforts to tame costs, such as employee wellness or disease management programs, may be paying off.

"There's a variety of tactics that employers have been employing over the last 3 to 6 years that has had an impact on the market," said study director Bill Sharon, an Aon Consulting senior vice president.

Aon Consulting surveyed about 70 health insurers around the country, including companies such as Aetna Inc. and Cigna Corp. It found that actuaries expect costs to rise an average of 10.6 percent during 12-month rating periods starting this year between April and September.

That represents a slight drop from last year's forecast of 10.9 percent and a bigger fall from 2002, when health care costs were expected to rise by more than 16 percent.

But the percentage likely won't be what the average employee faces for a premium hike next year. It doesn't reflect insurance plan designs or changes an employer might make to benefits plans.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GM offers more fuel-efficient pickup trucks, SUVs

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Corp. is releasing new, more fuel-efficient versions of its full-size pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles later this fall. The XFE - or extra fuel economy - versions of the 2009 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra trucks and Chevrolet Tahoe and GMC Yukon SUVs will get one mile per gallon more in both city and highway fuel economy than non-XFE versions. The boost will give them a total of 15 miles per gallon in the city and 21 on the highway. GM stressed that the vehicles still have the same towing capability.

Stocks end higher, extending last week's gains

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street advanced Monday but gave back some of its gains after crude oil prices pulled off their lows and the Federal Reserve said more banks are tightening lending standards. The Dow Jones industrials, up more than 130 points in afternoon trading, ended the day up 48.03, or 0.41 percent, at 11,782.35 after rising more than 300 on Friday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.00, or 0.69 percent, to 1,305.32. The Nasdaq composite index rose 25.85, or 1.07 percent, to 2,439.95.

Federal Reserve finds deepening credit crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—More banks are tightening lending standards on home mortgages and other consumer and business loans as a deepening credit crisis exerts a heavier toll on the economy. The Federal Reserve said Monday the percentage of banks reporting tighter lending standards rose across various loan types in its July survey. In April, the central bank had found that the percentage of banks reporting tighter lending standards was already near historic highs. The new survey, conducted in early July, found that about 75 percent of the banks surveyed indicated they had tightened their lending standards for prime mortgages. That was up from about 60 percent of banks who said they were tightening lending standards for prime mortgages in the previous survey. The Fed's July survey covered 50 banks which hold about 80 percent of the residential mortgages on the books of all commercial banks.

Oil falls below $114 in Asia on stronger dollar

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell Tuesday in Asia to a 3-month low as a stronger dollar and weakening crude demand from China weighed on investor sentiment

Light, sweet crude for September delivery fell 65 cents to $113.80 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract lost 75 cents overnight to settle at $114.45 a barrel, the lowest close for a floor session since May 1.

A report from China on Monday that the country's crude oil imports in July were down 7 percent from last year fueled expectations that the economic slowdown affecting the U.S. and Europe may be spreading to Asia and cutting demand for oil.

AP

A gas station attendant lowers gas prices at a filling station in Los Angeles on Saturday, Aug. 9,2008.

A stronger dollar is also pushing prices down. The euro fell Tuesday to $1.4879, while the dollar was holding above 110 yen. A weak dollar helped boost oil prices earlier this year, because dollar-denominated commodities are often used as hedges against inflation and a falling U.S. currency. But gains in the currency are reversing that trend.

In London, Brent crude for September delivery fell 78 cents to $112.04 a barrel.

Prices fell despite concerns that the widening conflict between Russia and Georgia over the breakaway province of South Ossetia could disrupt supplies in the region.

Most companies in US avoid federal income taxes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unlike the rest of us, most U.S. corporations and foreign companies doing business in the United States pay no federal income tax, according to a new report from Congress.

The study by the Government Accountability Office, expected to be released Tuesday, said two-thirds of U.S. corporations paid no federal income taxes between 1998 and 2005, and about 68 percent of foreign companies doing business in the U.S. avoided corporate taxes over the same period.

Collectively, the companies reported trillions of dollars in sales, according to GAO's estimate.

"It's shameful that so many corporations make big profits and pay nothing to support our country," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., who asked for the GAO study with Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich.

An outside tax expert, Chris Edwards of the libertarian Cato Institute in Washington, said increasing numbers of limited liability corporations and so-called "S" corporations pay taxes under individual tax codes.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Ron Paul's wife in serious condition at hospital

HOUSTON (AP)—The wife of Republican Rep. Ron Paul was in serious but stable condition Monday at a Houston hospital, a spokesman for the congressman said. Carol Paul was in the critical care unit at an unidentified hospital, spokesman Jesse Benton said in a statement. Benton would not disclose why Carol Paul was admitted to the hospital Monday, only saying "she has had several abdominal surgeries." Paul "appreciates the outpouring of concern and good wishes during this difficult time," Benton said. A Texas congressman from Lake Jackson, Ron Paul was the Libertarian Party nominee for president in 1988 and ran unsuccessfully for the 2008 GOP presidential nomination. His campaign, which was a sensation on the Internet, drew support from Republicans, independents and Democrats.

Denver police suspect cyanide death at hotel

DENVER (AP)—Officials performing an autopsy Monday noticed an indication of cyanide poisoning, leading police to cordon off streets as they investigated at the downtown hotel where the man's body was found. The Burnsley Hotel was later declared safe, though the floor where the body was found remained off limits, said Fire Department spokesman Alex Paez. Streets reopened later Monday. A hazardous materials team found white powder in a bottle in the man's fourth-floor room and was trying to determine what it was, Paez said. It appears the man was dead for several days before his body was found, police spokesman John White said. Nothing suggests foul play.

Utah man pleads to knowing about cousin's ricin

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A Utah man accused of failing to report that his cousin was making the deadly poison ricin has pleaded guilty to the felony charge. Thomas Tholen entered the plea Monday in U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City. Prosecutor John Huber recommended three years of probation. Sentencing was set for October. His cousin, Roger Bergendorff, pleaded guilty last week to federal possession of a biological toxin and weapons charges. He denied criminal intent and said he never released any of the lethal powder.

Lawsuit filed over Taser death

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The family of a central Louisiana man who died after a police officer repeatedly jolted him with a Taser filed a wrongful-death lawsuit Monday, on the eve of a grand jury's probe of the case. The federal lawsuit accuses Winnfield city officials of civil rights violations in the death of Baron Pikes, 21. Former Winnfield police officer Scott Nugent is accused of shocking a handcuffed Pikes nine times with a 50,000-volt Taser stun gun while arresting him on a drug possession warrant in January. A coroner ruled the death was a homicide. A grand jury in Winnfield is scheduled to convene Tuesday and could finish hearing evidence in the case by the end of the day.

Deputy hurt, suspect dead in Ga. standoff

LULA, Ga. (AP)—A suspect was shot to death and a sheriff's deputy was injured after an hour-long standoff near an elementary school in north Georgia Monday, authorities said. The school, Lula Elementary, was locked down after a witness saw a man with a handgun walking on a street that runs behind the school. An off-duty officer was called to the scene. The man pointed a gun at him then fled, Hall County Sgt. Kiley Sargent said. The man then barricaded himself inside his home—an RV camper—a few blocks from the school. A SWAT team was sent to the scene. The suspect died from a gunshot wound shortly after arriving at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, Sargent said. Hospital officials identified him as 65-year-old Herbert Tate.

Judge frees convicted Ohio rapist after DNA test

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A judge freed a man Monday who had spent nearly 18 years in prison on a charge of raping a 10-year-old girl after a lab re-examining cases across Ohio showed that his DNA profile didn't match evidence from the crime scene. Robert McClendon, 52, was released by Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Charles Schneider, who cited the DNA test. Jennifer Bergeron, a lawyer with the Ohio Innocence Project, said she expects prosecutors to formally drop charges against McClendon within the next two weeks. McClendon planned to go to the home of a relative in Columbus on Monday to celebrate his release at a dinner with about 50 supporters, friends and relatives.

AP: Bush to relax protected species rules

WASHINGTON (AP)—Parts of the Endangered Species Act may soon be extinct. The Bush administration wants federal agencies to decide for themselves whether highways, dams, mines and other construction projects might harm endangered animals and plants.

Bush

New regulations, which don't require the approval of Congress, would reduce the mandatory, independent reviews government scientists have been performing for 35 years, according to a draft first obtained by The Associated Press.

Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne said late Monday the changes were needed to ensure that the Endangered Species Act would not be used as a "back door" to regulate the gases blamed for global warming. In May, the polar bear became the first species declared as threatened because of climate change. Warming temperatures are expected to melt the sea ice the bear depends on for survival.

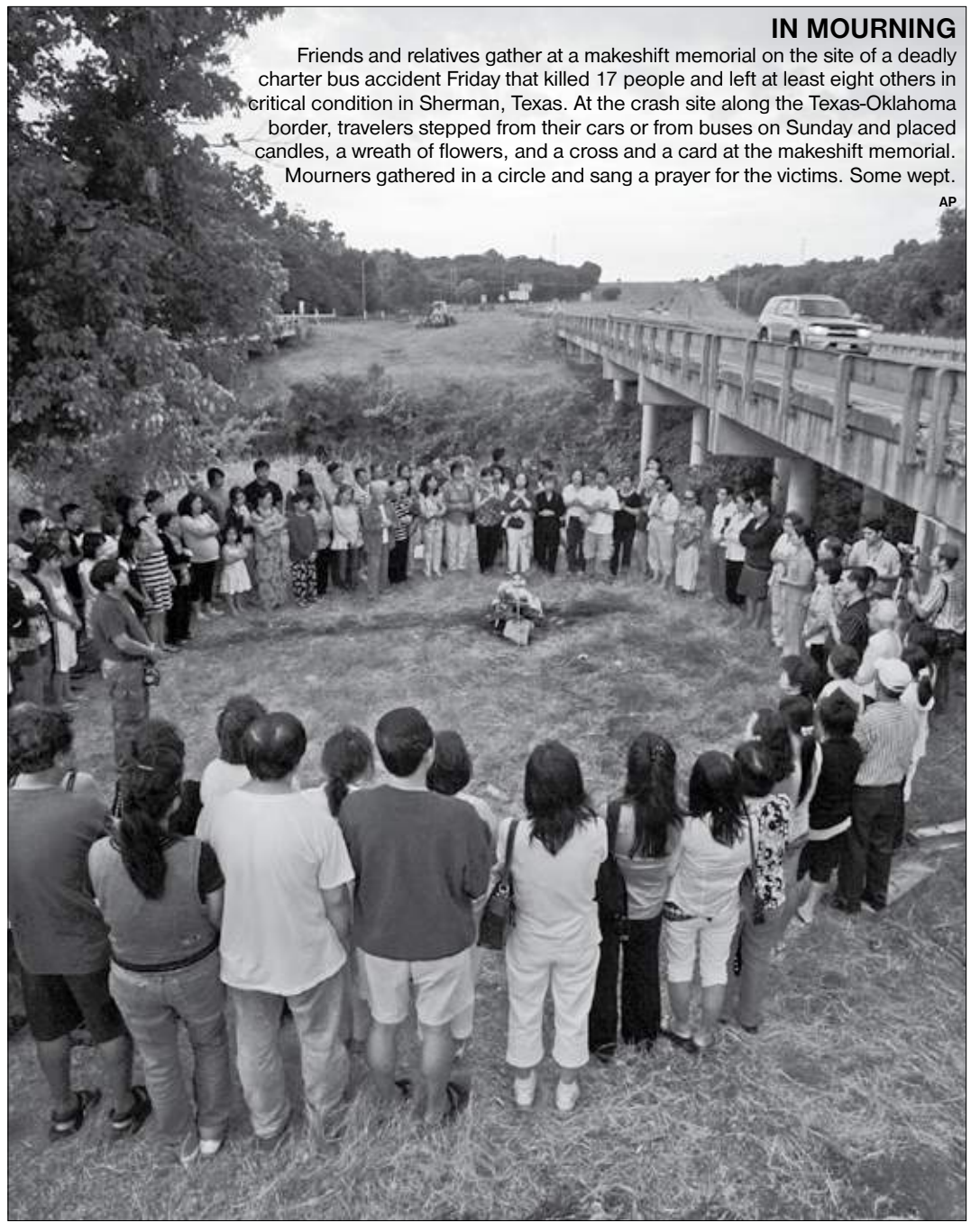
The draft rules would bar federal agencies from assessing the emissions from projects that contribute to global warming and its effect on species and habitats.

"We need to focus our efforts where they will do the most good," Kempthorne said in a news conference organized quickly after AP reported details of the proposal. "It is important to use our time and resources to protect the most vulnerable species. It is not possible to draw a link between greenhouse gas emissions and distant observations of impacts on species."

IN MOURNING

Friends and relatives gather at a makeshift memorial on the site of a deadly charter bus accident Friday that killed 17 people and left at least eight others in critical condition in Sherman, Texas. At the crash site along the Texas-Oklahoma border, travelers stepped from their cars or from buses on Sunday and placed candles, a wreath of flowers, and a cross and a card at the makeshift memorial. Mourners gathered in a circle and sang a prayer for the victims. Some wept.

AP



LA authorities: 'Rockefeller' is wanted German

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A kidnapping suspect being held in Boston is a German man who lived in the guesthouse of a Los Angeles-area couple who disappeared in 1985, a sheriff's spokesman said Monday.

Los Angeles County sheriff's investigators have identified Christian Gerhartsreiter as the same man who used the aliases Clark Rockefeller and Christopher Chichester, spokesman Steve Whitmore told The Associated Press.

Homicide detectives "are confident that Rockefeller is Christian Gerhartsreiter and the person named Christopher Chichester who was living in the Los Angeles area in 1985," Whitmore said.

Gerhartsreiter has been identified as a "person of interest" in the San Marino case, Whitmore said.

AP

This undated image provided by Lydia Marano shows John and Linda Sohus sometime prior to their 1985 disappearance.

Investigators were able to confirm Gerhartsreiter's identity after interviews with people who knew him in California in the 1980s, Whitmore said. Under the Chichester name, Gerhartsreiter rented a guesthouse at the home of Jonathan and Linda Sohus, who vanished in 1985 while living in wealthy San Marino, about 10 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

Clinton told to cast Obama as un-American

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton's top campaign strategist advised her to cast presidential rival Barack Obama as having questionable "roots to basic American values and culture" and use the theme to counter the image that his background is diverse and multicultural.

"I cannot imagine America electing a president during a time of war who is not at his center fundamentally American in his thinking and in his values," Mark Penn wrote in a March 2007 memo to Clinton.

Clinton did not take Penn's advice, revealed by a report in the September issue of The Atlantic magazine.

The article says Clinton's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination went from front-runner status to failure for a number of reasons, from badly managed money to blistering warfare between advisers. Clinton, the candidate who said she was ready to lead on Day One of her administration, did little to quell the infighting.

NASA safety panel worries about the moon ship design

WASHINGTON (AP)—NASA is not properly emphasizing safety in its design of a new spaceship and its return-to-the-moon program faces money, morale and leadership problems, an agency safety panel found Monday.

The Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel cited "surprising anxiety among NASA employees" about the Constellation moon program and said the project "lacks clear direction." Its 143-page annual report specifically faulted the agency's design of the Orion crew capsule for not putting safety features first.

Officials in charge of the program, defending the design safety at a news conference, wouldn't say whether astronauts are among the worried employees. Astronauts would have to fly in the Orion crew capsule, with a first launch planned by 2015.

Asia

Filipino rebels vow to leave occupied villages

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim rebels said they were pulling back from a dozen of occupied southern Philippine villages Tuesday after government forces began retaking them amid fierce fighting that has forced nearly 160,000 civilians from their homes.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno blamed Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas for refusing to leave about 15 villages in the predominantly Christian province of North Cotabato and forcing residents to abandon their farms at harvest time.

TV footage showed residents leaving with their precious water buffalos, used for plowing. They refugees described hurriedly leaving their homes at the sound of gunfire, with little time to pack their belongings. Most headed to about 40 government-run evacuation centers, while many others took refuge with relatives. Government figures showed 83 homes were burned, most in Aleosan town.

The government on Sunday started pounding rebels using artillery and helicopter gunships after they ignored an ultimatum to withdraw. By Monday, troops regained the control of two villages in clashes that killed at least one soldier and seven guerrillas.

Rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu said the guerrillas were repositioning Tuesday in line with the government call for the rebel withdrawal. But he said the pace of the withdrawal depended on the situation on the ground and called on army troops to cease firing.

"They're repositioning to a place safe and far enough to prevent exchanges of gunfire from both sides," Kabalu told The Associated Press.

He lamented the high of number of refugees, calling them "a product of war." "But who wants a conflict like this?" Kabalu said, adding the rebels were open to a dialogue and did not want to prolong the suffering of civilians.

AP

Philippine troops fire howitzers at Muslim rebel lairs in Midsayap town, North Cotabato province, southern Philippines on Sunday Aug. 10, 2008.

Government officials have said they have enough food and other supplies to cater for the displaced. Sen. Richard Gordon, head of the Philippine Red Cross, said he asked for more information about the needs of the refugees.

The Office of Civil Defense reported the number of refugees at 159,123 in 56 villages in 7 townships. Kabalu said most of those in evacuation centers were Christians while Muslim residents tended to stay with relatives.

The latest flare-up in fighting in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's south—the traditional Muslim homeland—comes at a crucial time in ongoing peace talks between the government and the rebels, who have been waging a bloody insurgency for self-rule for decades. The two sides, which signed a 2003 cease-fire, had reached agreement covering the territorial makeup of a future expanded Muslim region, but the signing of the accord was halted last week by the Supreme Court.

The court was acting on a petition filed by southern Christian politicians who are wary of losing land and power to the Muslims.

The agricultural province of more than a million people is still recovering from Typhoon Fung Wong, which ravaged farmlands last month. Gov. Jesus Sacdalan said over the weekend that the fighting has made the recovery more difficult.

ASIAN BRIEFS

N. Korean boat collides with S. Korean ship, 2 missing

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A North Korean fishing boat collided with a South Korea cargo ship early Tuesday, leaving two North Koreans missing, officials said. The collision took place before dawn near the eastern sea border between the divided Koreas, said a South Korean Defense Ministry official, on condition of anonymity citing office policy. The official said two of four North Koreans aboard the fishing boat were rescued, but the other two were still missing. Kim Young-il, a spokesman at the Unification Ministry, said the South Korean ship was carrying sand from North Korea and the accident was believed to have occurred just north of the maritime border.

Indonesian rescuers recover body of American pilot

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The body of an American pilot was recovered Monday from the wreckage of his small plane, which crashed into a jungle-covered mountain in eastern Indonesia over the weekend, rescuers said. There were no passengers on board. David Clapper, 46, was delivering food and other supplies to Ndundu, a remote village in Papua province, when his Pilatus Porter PC-6 went down late Saturday, said Col. Dedy Permadi, head of the local Search and Rescue Agency. An air force plane dropped seven rescuers at the site, located in rugged terrain 2,050 miles (3,300 kilometers) east of Jakarta, he said. They recovered Clapper's body, but will wait until Tuesday to evacuate it because of bad weather, Permadi said. The pilot was from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and had been flying for the Catholic-run Associated Mission Aviation in Papua since 2002.

Lawmakers call Musharraf 'unfit,' demand he quit

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Lawmakers in Pakistan's most powerful province on Monday accused President Pervez Musharraf of gross misconduct and demanded he step down, an opening salvo in the ruling coalition's campaign to oust the defiant former army chief. The political battle unfolded as witnesses reported Pakistan's military rained bombs on militants in a tribal region along the border with Afghanistan in fighting that has killed dozens of people and forced thousands to flee in recent days. Legislators in Punjab province's assembly voted overwhelmingly, 321-25, for the anti-Musharraf resolution, even drawing support from 35 members of the main pro-Musharraf party, the Pakistan Muslim League-Q.

Bush says Olympics exceeded expectations

BEIJING (AP)—Halfway around the world, President Bush managed to cap his Olympic experience at a place he calls home: a baseball field. Bush listens to baseball games like background music at the White House, a sound that puts him at ease. And so here in Beijing, comfortably keeping an eye on a baseball game, Bush reflected on an Olympics experience that was extraordinary even by presidential standards. "It's exceeded my expectations," Bush told The Associated Press in an interview Monday before returning to Washington. He meant the whole deal: the venues, the people, the pride. Never before had a U.S. president taken part in an Olympics on foreign land. Bush came and soaked it in for four days.

Family struggles in aftermath of Olympic slaying

BEIJING (AP)—In the days since a knifing attack at a Beijing tourist attraction, the coach of the U.S. men's volleyball team said his family has been consumed with the shock of his father-in-law's death and with arranging care for his severely wounded mother-in-law. Hugh McCutcheon said he has been helping his wife Elisabeth Bachman, a former Olympian, "talk through" the grief. Beyond that, he said he realized the attack has affected his men's team, which worked hard to qualify for the Beijing Olympics, and the women's team, including teammates of Elisabeth at the 2004 Athens Games. The stabbings cast a shadow on the Olympics, coming a half-day after a spectacular opening ceremony in a city where violent acts are rare, especially against foreigners. It embarrassed the Chinese government.

Ousted Thai ex-PM heads back into Britain

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra returned to exile in London, jumping bail and saying Monday he could not expect a fair trial in his homeland on the corruption charges he faces.

Thaksin

Thai prosecutors said they were discussing the possibility of asking for Thaksin's extradition—usually a lengthy and complicated process—and the country's Supreme Court issued arrest warrants for Thaksin and his wife.

Thaksin and his wife, Pojaman, failed to return to Thailand after traveling to China for the Olympics opening ceremony.

He had come home to Thailand less than six months ago after an extended period of exile after the 2006 military coup, much of it spent at his London residence and traveling around Europe and Asia making business deals, most notably the purchase of the Britain's Manchester City soccer club.

"I thought I would be able to prove my innocence and receive justice, which is why I returned to Thailand on Feb. 28. But the situation has deteriorated," Thaksin said in a three-page handwritten statement that was read on state-run television and faxed to media outlets.

Thaksin, 59, faces a slew of court cases and investigations into alleged corruption and abuse of power during his five years in office. In his statement, he insisted he was innocent of all the accusations. He also said there had been threats on his life. "I have also constantly received news that my life is not safe. Wherever I travel, I have to use bulletproof cars. This is the result I got from having volunteered to serve the country, the king and the people," he said.

Bush ends Asian trip after taking in some Olympics

BEIJING (AP)—The Olympics hadn't even started when Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin quietly confirmed to President Bush the sketchy reports of Russian troops involved in an outbreak of fighting in Georgia's breakaway republic of South Ossetia. Suddenly, the president found the celebratory message of what is likely to be his last trip to Asia overshadowed by a growing crisis that could easily spread in a volatile region rife with ethnic tensions. His Beijing itinerary went on as planned, but the behind-the-scenes machinations over what to do about the conflict took center stage for the traveling White House.

Bush was positioned right in the middle, between a small U.S. ally and powerful Russia. "It was just interesting to me that here we are, trying to promote peace and harmony, and we're witnessing a conflict take place," Bush recalled Monday before wrapping up his weeklong, three-country swing and heading home.

Bush's goals while visiting South Korea, Thailand and China were to cheer on U.S. athletes and outline his vision for the future of American policy in Asia. On the doorsteps of repressive regimes in North Korea and Myanmar, he pressed for human rights improvements.

Kabul bomb kills 3 civilians, wounds NATO soldiers

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber rammed his car into a NATO convoy in Kabul on Monday, killing three civilians and wounding at least a dozen people, including some soldiers, officials said. Clashes and an airstrike in the south killed 25 militants and eight civilians held hostage by insurgents.

Another bomb attack against a NATO convoy in the country's northwest killed one soldier and wounded several other people, including civilians. A Canadian soldier was reported killed and another seriously wounded in a skirmish with insurgents in southern Kandahar province.

The Kabul suicide bomber targeted a NATO convoy on the main road in the city's eastern outskirts, killing three civilians and wounding 12, said Ayub Salangi, the provincial police chief. The blast also wounded NATO soldiers, NATO's press office in Kabul said, but didn't give a number.

A witness who was traveling ahead of the convoy said the troops were British.

World

Russia opens new front, drives deeper into Georgia

ZUGDIDI, Georgia (AP)—Russian tanks roared deep into Georgia on Monday, launching a new western front in the conflict, and Russian planes staged air raids that sent people screaming and fleeing for cover in some towns.

The escalating warfare brought sharp words from President Bush, who pressed Moscow to accept an immediate cease-fire and pull its troops out to avert a "dramatic and brutal escalation" of violence in the former Soviet republic.

Russian forces for the first time moved well outside the two restive, pro-Russian provinces claimed by Georgia that lie at the heart of the dispute. An Associated Press reporter saw Russian troops in control of government buildings in this town just miles from the frontier and Russian troops were reported in nearby Senaki.

Georgia's president said his country had been sliced in half with the capture of a critical highway crossroads near the central city of Gori, and Russian warplanes launched new air raids across the country.

AP

Russian troops seen near the village of Khurcha in Georgia's breakaway province of Abkhazia, Sunday, Aug. 10, 2008, heading toward the border with Georgia.

The Russian Defense Ministry, through news agencies, denied it had captured Gori and also denied any intentions to advance on the Georgian capital of Tbilisi.

In New York, the United Nations Security Council held an emergency session at Georgia's request, the fifth meeting on the fighting in as many days.

The western assault expanded the days-old war beyond the central breakaway region of South Ossetia, where a crackdown by Georgia last week drew a military response from Russia.

While most Georgian forces were still busy fighting there, Russian troops opened the western attack by invading from a second separatist province, Abkhazia, that occupies Georgia's coastal northwest arm.

Russian forces moved into Senaki, 20 miles inland from the Black Sea, and seized police stations in Zugdidi, just outside the southern fringe of Abkhazia. Abkhazian allies took control of the nearby village of Kurga, according to witnesses and Georgian officials.

Mauritania coup leaders free prime minister

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania (AP)—Mauritania's ousted prime minister defiantly refused to recognize the African country's ruling military junta Monday, after he was freed from house arrest under international pressure.

Prime Minister Yahya Ould Ahmed Waqef told a rally of several thousand people that the country would not accept last week's bloodless coup that forced President Sidi Ould Cheikh Abdallahi from power. Abdallahi remains under arrest.

Speaking just hours after his release, Waqef said the president was in good health and encouraged them to keep pushing to restore the government to power. "The president thanks you for your untiring fight, your strong fight to restore constitutional order," he said.

The rally was a significant show of support for the president, who rose to power last year as Mauritania's first freely elected president in more than two decades.

Soon after last Wednesday's coup, only around 100 Abdallahi supporters gathered and were quickly dispersed by police firing tear gas. That same day, several thousand coup supporters marched with the coup leader, Gen. Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz.

After holding them for five days, the army released the prime minister, the interior minister and two other officials Monday afternoon, indicating a willingness to bow some to international pressure.

But in a sign that power remained with the military, the junta refused to free the president and said it had no immediate plans to release him.

Freedom for the other officials followed behind-the-scenes lobbying by the ambassadors of the U.S., France, Germany and Spain who met with the coup leader late Sunday, according to a diplomat who asked not to be quoted by name because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

Egypt pyramids to lose the peddlers, will be fenced in

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Tourists have long been awed by Egypt's famed Giza Pyramids and irritated by having to fend off peddlers relentlessly offering camel rides and trinkets.

But the hustlers were gone Monday as Egypt started an elaborate project to modernize the area and make it friendlier to tourists. Security is also improving, with a 12-mile chain-link fence featuring cameras, alarms and motion detectors.

"It was a zoo," said Zahi Hawass, Egypt's chief archaeologist, recalling the past free-for-all. "Now we are protecting both the tourists and the ancient monuments."

The three Giza Pyramids have been unusually open for a 5,000-year-old Wonder of the World.

The desert plateau on which they stand was once isolated. But as the capital has expanded, slums have been built right to the edge of the site, separated in places by only a low stone wall. The rest of the area has been wide open to the desert.

Tourists undergo a constant barrage from peddlers selling souvenir statues, T-shirts and other trinkets. Visitors are sometimes followed by men on camels selling rides or photos—and rarely taking no for an answer.

Young men even try to force their way into taxi cabs carrying foreigners toward the pyramids, looking to steer them to nearby horse stables for a ride around the site.

But tourists have taken their own liberties. Climbing the Pyramid of Khufu, the biggest of the three monuments, was a favorite challenge for visitors beginning in the 19th century and continuing into the 1970s, despite the occasional fatal fall of an inebriated tourist.

AP

Two Egyptian camel riders wait for customers at the site of the ancient Giza Pyramids in Cairo, Egypt Monday, Aug. 11, 2008.

Iraqi leader gives refugees free flight home

BAGHDAD (AP)—Several hundred Iraqi refugees flew home from Egypt on Monday on the Iraqi prime minister's plane, the first government-organized flight aimed at accelerating the return of Iraqis now that violence has waned.

Many of those returning on the free flight, however, said they had come back only because they were broke after years of living outside Iraq and still feared the dangers in their homeland.

"If I had more money, I would have stayed and never gone back," Abu Hussein, a 32-year-old Shiite merchant, said waiting to board at Cairo's airport. "We hear from other returnees that they had regret going back because there is still bombing, kidnapping and killing."

The International Organization of Migration says some 13,000 Iraqis have returned from nations in the region—a tiny proportion of the estimated 2.5 million who fled Iraq's turmoil after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. Nearly 3 million more Iraqis have been displaced inside the country, the Switzerland-based humanitarian group says. With violence down sharply over the past year, Iraq's government is eager to encourage more to come home.

Most Iraqis who have returned arranged their own trips. The government previously organized a few free bus trips from Syria, and on Monday it offered the first plane ride at no charge.

Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, the Iraqi military spokesman for Baghdad, said the government hoped to arrange up to two flights a week for returnees from countries around the Middle East.

Jordan's king visits Iraq, urges Arabs to support

BAGHDAD (AP)—Jordan's King Abdullah II held talks Monday with Iraq's prime minister after coming to Baghdad on an unannounced visit, the first by an Arab head of state since the U.S.-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Abdullah called on Arab governments to "extend their hand to Iraq" because a strong Iraq "is a source of strength for the Arab nation," according to a statement released by the royal palace in the Jordanian capital of Amman.

An Iraqi government statement said Abdullah had "frank and positive talks" with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki on relations between the two countries. Al-Maliki told the king that Iraq wanted to improve relations with all Arab countries, the statement said.

In turn, Abdullah expressed Jordan's support for Iraqi "efforts to impose stability," the statement added.

Ties between the two neighboring countries had been strained since the fall of Saddam because of Jordanian fears that Iraq's Shiite-led government was too friendly with Shiite-dominated Iran.

Jordanian officials have been concerned about Iranian influence in Iraq and the loss of discounted oil, which Saddam once provided. Abdullah warned in 2004 about the emergence of a "Shiite crescent" including Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon—remarks that angered Iraqi officials.

But U.S. officials had been urging Abdullah to visit Iraq to bolster ties between the two countries as part of Washington's campaign to shore up support for the Iraqi government as a counterweight to Iranian influence.

Campus Life

Five essential ways to motivate students

By JAY MATHEWS
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WASHINGTON—One of the best books I have read on motivation in education is "Engaging Minds: Motivation and Learning in America's Schools," by David A. Goslin.

Though it was published in 2003, good advice never goes stale. Goslin's thoughts, still fresh and relevant, can be summarized as five ways to motivate students, a topic of central importance in the national effort to improve our schools.

Only work on those who need it.

Goslin, past president and chief executive of the American Institutes for Research and former executive director of the National Research Council's Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, has a lesson for me and other report-card advocates. Grades, he says, are often not as motivating as we would like them to be. They lose their power for most students because "only so many A's and B's are awarded in each class, irrespective of the performance of the rest of the students in the class. Underlying this practice is the philosophy that if all of the children received high marks, grades would lose their value to motivate student performance. The result, therefore, is that many students are not motivated to work hard because they know that they have little chance of beating out the best students for a good grade."

How do you motivate them then? That is what the rest of the book is about. Goslin suggests, among other things, well-planned teaching, more optimism about each child's chance to learn, closer teacher-student relationships, smaller schools and grading by mastery, not the curve—meaning you tell the students what they must learn, check off each concept or skill as they master it, and don't fret if some students take longer than others.

Stop telling them they're smart.

"While there is much talk in American society about the importance of hard work and its relationship to success in life," Goslin writes, "most Americans act as though innate abilities are the primary determinants of their most important accomplishments." Obvious signs of this culture tendency include gifted-and-talented programs and college admissions based on the SAT. Goslin favors the contrasting Asian philosophy that effort, not brains, brings success. He also wants teachers to make clear to each student what has to be learned, and express confidence each can learn it.

Make sure the homework isn't stupid.

Goslin calls this problem "inefficiencies in the learning processes." He says, "There is a great deal of evidence that an enormous amount of effort on the part of children, not to mention their parents and teachers, is wasted." We all have favorite examples, like the log cabin we made out of Tootsie Rolls for history class, or those names of obscure points of grammar we never quite memorized and later realized even professional writers don't need to know, or the copying of long passages that would have been better remembered if our teacher had encouraged discussion of their relevance to our world.

Motivation comes from many places, but if teachers don't know how to produce it, none of the rest of us are going to have a chance of having any impact on our favorite reluctant scholars.

Goslin says learning would benefit if we dispensed with the notion that every teacher, school or district should pick the textbooks and teaching methods they like best. He prefers a national curriculum and nationally certified teaching methods based on research on what works, and what doesn't. I sense he would also support letting teachers with good track records do what they want.

Show some respect for learning.

We Americans, despite our bookish founding fathers, have always had an anti-intellectual streak. Watch any teen drama on television to see how the best students are portrayed. One of our great economic strengths is our willingness to forgive bad grades in school if you show up to work on time and apply yourself to your job. If you come up with some great new ideas, all the better, no matter what your grade-point average was. Bill Gates, the richest man in the world, is a college dropout. Goslin understands our attitude, but pleads for some adjustment. Maybe we should point out to our children that although Gates doesn't have a college degree, he sometimes goes off for days at a time just to read books and think.

Involve the kid's family.

"The school is only one of the two principal socializing institutions in society, the other being the family," Goslin says. He wants more support at home for learning. My only complaint is that he gets the sequence wrong. He leaves the impression that the schools need involved parents to improve, when in many instances skeptical and distracted parents only become engaged in their children's studies when they encounter great educators who are raising achievement and asking parents to back them up. Motivation comes from many places, but if teachers don't know how to produce it, none of the rest of us are going to have a chance of having any impact on our favorite reluctant scholars.

Colleges peddle bicycles to car-loving students

ATLANTA (AP)—Emory University is hoping to make bikes the must-have back-to-school accessory this fall.

The school is selling discounted bicycles to students and faculty, adding bike lanes to campus roads and stocking bikes that can be borrowed for free. The university is pushing its $250,000 "Bike Emory" initiative, launched a year ago, in hopes of convincing students and faculty that the eco-friendly bikes are a better alternative to their four-wheeled, gas-guzzling counterparts.

Cycling already has a foothold at many colleges, where hefty parking fees, sprawling campuses and limited roads make it tough to travel. Still, most students are reluctant to leave their cars parked.

"They're using them to drive from residence halls to class, which is a two- or three-block commute," said Ric Damm, an administrator and cycling coach at Ripon College, which is giving away $300 bikes to freshmen who leave their cars at home. "We thought, 'How can we provide an incentive to get them out of that behavior?'"

AP

Emory University employees David Knight and Casey Brinsfield ride a bike borrowed from the schools bank of loaner bicycles to a meeting on the school's campus Friday, July 18, 2008 in Atlanta.

Damm's school, outside Oshkosh, Wis., has spent $26,000 on its free bike program, which so far has signed up half of the 300-student freshman class, Damm said.

"I think a big draw is the just the environmental aspect," said freshman Regina Nelson, who readily signed up for a free bike. "And, honestly, I think that anything free when you're in college is good, especially something like a bike that is worth something."

Emory started a bike-share program a couple of months ago. It has just 20 bikes now, but that will double by this fall, said Jamie Smith, who oversees the initiative. The sign-out lists for the bikes had just 12 names on them after the program started in April, but that number climbed to 45 in June during the typically slow summer, Smith said.

At Duke University in Durham, N.C., the bike-share program started last year had to start a waiting list because all 100 bikes were checked out within just a few weeks. Now the school spends $24,000 each year on the program, and most of its bikes are checked out every day, said Watts Magnum, who runs the program.

Students say they like the convenience of having a bike whenever they need it.

"I've had two bikes stolen, so I stopped buying bikes because they kept stealing them," said Andre Loyd, a graduate student in Duke's biomedical engineering program, as he checked out a bike recently.

Northern Illinois University and Illinois State University have also both started free bike-share programs, painting the bikes bright colors and handing a lock and helmet to every customer. Illinois State revamps abandoned bikes instead of shelling out the money for new bikes.

Some colleges are looking for ways to appeal to reluctant cyclists.

The University of Washington has bought 40 electric bicycles for a bike-share program set to launch in January. Anyone with a university ID can borrow one of the bikes, which give an extra boost to cyclers who may be concerned about tackling Seattle's steep hills.

The university received a $200,000 grant from the state Department of Transportation for the pilot program, and the school said it hopes to add to the 5,000 cyclists who roam the campus each day.

Washington is among dozens of higher-ed institutions that have signed the Presidents Climate Commitment, which promises they will work to make their campuses carbon-neutral. The bike programs are a natural fit for that goal, administrators said.

Back at Emory, employee Casey Brinsfield checks out bikes each week to attend meetings across campus from her office. On a recent afternoon, she and her co-worker, David Knight, donned their helmets and headed down a hill toward the main part of Emory's campus.

"It's easier than getting a car out and finding parking," Brinsfield said before the duo rode away. "It's definitely less pollution and it's safer for pedestrians."

Life & Style

He is not the son of Spock

By Susan Salter Reynolds
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"I'm going to write about the dark times," Adam Nimoy explained to his mother when he began working on "My Incredibly Wonderful, Miserable Life," which he calls "an anti-memoir."

"Like when you and Dad were out of town on some `Star Trek' press junket and I was strung out on the floor of that men's room downtown ... "

"That ... that ... that never happened to you!" Nimoy's mother protested.

"No, Ma, I know. But that's what people want to hear."

From his first meeting with a prospective agent, Nimoy had to hold on tight to the book he wanted to write. Agents wanted the dirt on growing up with "Star Trek" television actor Leonard Nimoy, who played Mr. Spock.

Nimoy wanted to write about his recovery from 30 years of addiction to marijuana and alcohol, about the crash and burn of his 18-year marriage, about raising two teenage children and, yes, about finding someone to love.

Writing the book was a way to pull himself out of the depressing hole his life had become. Not necessarily finding himself -- that obnoxious baby-boomer phrase -- but asserting his identity, separate from his father, from the marriage, from drugs.

In 1975, Nimoy's father, Leonard, then 44, published his own book about the fight for identity titled "I Am Not Spock."

"I am identified in at least two specific roles," the elder Nimoy wrote. "Leonard Nimoy—actor, and Mr. Spock—Vulcan ... Maybe if I can get it all down on paper and see the words and ideas staring me in the face, I might understand. I might get a better fix on what I am and who he is."

Adam Nimoy, 51, is surprised to discover the parallel between the two books.

"For me," he says, "the generational story is incredibly important. My father was the son of Russian immigrants. They arrived in Boston with nothing. My father sold newspapers in the winter as a boy. When he came to Hollywood in 1950, he did all kinds of jobs to support his acting career. There's nothing grandiose about my grandparents or my dad's desperation to survive and succeed or even his passion for his art. It was all about humility and fragility and the value of hard work."

In "My Incredibly Wonderful, Miserable Life," Nimoy writes about the consuming nature of his father's work, the long hours and the fans.

"Since the beginning, people have been coming up to Dad from every direction wanting something ... Naturally, Dad had to be very guarded when dealing with these types of situations and often times he forgot to let his guard down when relating to me."

Nimoy describes how, for years, he would "take my old man out of the closet in my mind and give him a good thrashing for all the hateful things he has said and done through the years."

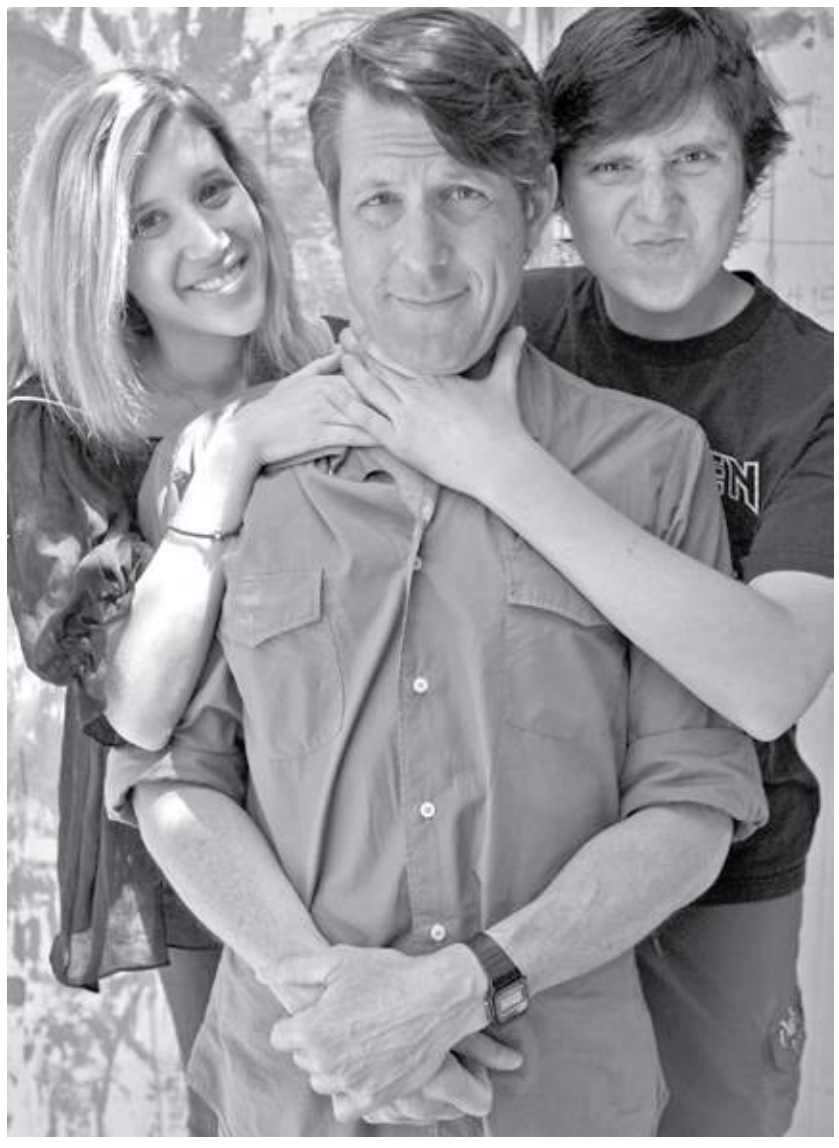
It has taken decades, he writes, to stop blaming and resenting his father, mostly working on his own.

"I've never had much luck arguing with him. Have you ever argued with a Pop Culture Icon? Have you ever argued with a guy who can cause a frenzy among thousands at a convention hall simply by performing a Vulcan hand salute?"

Ironically, "I Am Not Spock" reveals Leonard Nimoy's consuming nature, the extent to which the studio became home and family. While shooting "Star Trek," he worked 12 hours a day, five days a week.

"My fellow artists," Leonard Nimoy writes, "were all my brothers and sisters and I had several parent figures: directors, producers and studio heads ... when the Spock character became as successful as it did, I felt I was a son who was doing his share to carry the family load."

Thirty-three years later, his own son has had several careers: lawyer, television director, teacher and author. Writing gives him a huge sense of accomplishment -- "A book is totally yours."



LOS ANGELES TIMES
Adam Nimoy writes about life with his kids, daughter Maddy and musician son Jonah.

Adam Nimoy has also played rock guitar for years, but is the first to admit that his son, Jonah, has the musical talent.

"Maybe it's true that talent skips a generation. The limelight was never for me."

It's taken work for Nimoy to get here.

"My Miserable Life" documents the individual therapy, the couples therapy, the AA and Marijuana Anonymous meetings, his time in a writing group. All of it is what Nimoy refers to as "process."

Much of this work has been in the name of learning to be a good father, trying, as Nimoy says, to model appropriate behavior—patience, tolerance.

This hasn't been easy. During his separation and divorce, Adam Nimoy's children begged him to come home. He writes about it, and these passages are among the most painful in the memoir.

"How's it going to feel?" his daughter Maddy yells at him one night. "How's it going to feel, to be living the rest of your life alone in that apartment?"

He describes how much he misses living with his children, being able to watch them sleep and sit with them while they do their homework.

Father and son, in their writing, have similar timing; a light, comedic touch, particularly in moments of pain and fear. Both use imagined dialogue in certain passages: the elder Nimoy with Spock and the younger with his dad.

In "I Am Not Spock," one of these passages reads like this:

Nimoy: Spock, What is life?

Spock: A state of being.

Nimoy: Let me put the question another way: Why is there life?

Spock: Yours or mine?

Nimoy: Anyone's.

Spock: You've missed my point ...

Nimoy: Which?

Spock: "Yours or mine" ... I was trying to suggest something.

Nimoy: You've lost me.

"My father's point in that book," Adam Nimoy explains, "was that he was in process constantly. I admire the process. Unfortunately, he was all about the process. He was not that good at balancing. As a child of the Depression, he had this drive to survive."

Even as communicative as he tries to be with his own son, Adam Nimoy suspects that Jonah complains about his father in therapy.

"What's up with that?" he asks.

"MY INCREDIBLY WONDERFUL, MISERABLE LIFE: An Anti-Memoir," by Adam Nimoy (Pocket Books, 296 pp., $23.)

AP
In this May 15, 2008, file photo, former New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey arrives at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth, N.J., for the resumption of his divorce trial from his estranged wife Dina Matos.

No clear winner in ex-NJ Gov. McGreevey divorce

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—Dina Matos took a calculated risk and lost.

Offered a settlement said to top $300,000 early in divorce talks with her gay ex-husband, former New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey, Matos turned it down. The epic, four-year drama that ensued cost each a half-million dollars and further drained the well in the court of public favor

"She got a little greedy," said matrimonial lawyer Joshua Forman, who has watched the McGreevey case closely. "Plain and simple, the guy was governor of New Jersey. He wasn't working for some huge corporation, making a lot of money." What did Matos get for all the bother? A lump sum payment of $110,000, which represents half the assets the McGreeveys accumulated during the four years they lived together as Mr. and Mrs., much of that spent in the New Jersey governor's mansion in Princeton.

McGreevey also was ordered to pay $250 per week in support for the couple's only daughter, 6. The calculation was based on McGreevey's earnings in his last sustained full-time job—as governor—and his ex-wife's income in her prior job as a fundraiser at Columbus Hospital in Newark.

The judge overseeing the McGreeveys' acerbic divorce admonished both afterward.

"The McGreeveys clearly had agendas," wrote Union County Superior Court Judge Karen Cassidy. "As previously addressed, their anger seemed to override any ability to testify credibly or to be reasonable."

The ruling in the monthlong divorce case came nearly four years after McGreevey announced he was a "gay American" and said he had an affair with a male staffer. The aide denied the affair and said he was sexually harassed by the governor.

McGreevey, 51, is now a full-time Episcopal seminary student who testified during the trial that he relies on his boyfriend for household expenses and legal fees. He said that if he were not in school, he'd have trouble finding a job because his name is tainted by political and sexual scandal.

Matos, 41, accused the former governor during the divorce trial of intentionally not working to avoid paying alimony and support.

The judge found some credibility in both arguments but factored the income of McGreevey's partner into the decision.

"We honor the principle that a current spouse has no obligation to support someone else's child while accounting for the reality that the current spouse may provide economic resources to the household," the judge wrote.

That touched off a wave of protest within the gay community, with activists wondering how a partner's assets could be considered if the couple could not be married under state law. New Jersey does offer civil unions.

"The problem is, New Jersey does not give same-sex couples like Jim and Mark (O'Donnell) the freedom to marry and to be legally equal spouses," said Steven Goldstein, head of Garden State Equality, the state's largest gay rights organization. "When the law gives a couple responsibilities without equality, the law must be changed."

The only issue yet to be decided is a separate fraud claim filed by Matos.

In it, she claims she is entitled to damages for being duped into marriage by a gay man who needed the cover of a wife to advance his political career.

While Cassidy did not specifically rule on the merits of the claim, she did strike down Matos' request to be compensated for the 13 months she would have spent in the governor's mansion had McGreevey not resigned in disgrace.

"She was asking for the perks of a governor—car, driver, clothing allowance," said Forman. "You get certain things when you have a job, not when you leave it, especially when you leave in disgrace."

Though each spent days on the stand publicly discussing the rise and fall of their marriage and the sorted details in between, neither has been willing to speak since it came to an end.

CW retools fabled 'Beverly Hills, 90210'

AP

In this image released by The CW network, the cast from"90210", front row from left, Ryan Eggold as Ryan, Jessica Stroup as Silver, Michael Steger as Navid; middle row from left, Jessica Walter as Tabitha, Tristan Wilds as Dixon, AnnaLynne McCord as Naomi; and back row from left, Rob Estes as Harry, Lori Loughlin as Debbie, Shenae Grimes as Annie and Dustin Milligan as Ethan, are shown. The spin-off on the fabled '90s teen drama premieres Sept. 2 at 8 p.m. EDT on The CW.

TORRANCE, Calif. (AP)—"Gutter balls only, please!" someone yells during a rehearsal at the Lucky Strike bowling alley for the CW's new series "90210." So co-stars Jessica Stroup and Shenae Grimes downplay their bowling skills.

The spin-off on the fabled '90s teen drama premieres Sept. 2 (8 p.m. EDT). If the show mimics the hot bodies, hip fashion and angst-ridden affluence of "Beverly Hills, 90210," it will also play edgier and less preachy, says co-executive producer Gabe Sachs.

"Look, we're not stupid," Sachs says. "We know people are probably expecting a cheese fest and that's just not what we do." Sachs and partner Jeff Judah cut their teeth as producers on the quirky yet short-lived teen series "Freaks and Geeks" and "Life as We Know It."

CW tapped the duo to produce its rich-kids reprise after Rob Thomas, creator of moody teen drama "Veronica Mars," dropped the project.

"The truth is, Jeff and I write how we write," Sachs says. "Everything's got to come out of real emotion. We want to deal with issues and show consequences, but not the issue of the week and pound you over the head."

"But I can never ever knock the original '90210,'" Sachs says of the series that ran from 1990-2000, trading on youth issues from addiction to pregnancy and amping the fortunes of the fledgling Fox network.

The original hooked a generation of viewers on trendy teen melodrama honed by creator Darren Star and executive producer Aaron Spelling.

To help spin the spin-off, original cast members Shannen Doherty, Jason Priestley and Jennie Garth will reprise their roles as special guest stars on "90210." Joe E. Tata will return as Peach Pit cafe owner Nat.

But despite her announced participation, Tori Spelling (yet another star in the original series as well as daughter of the late TV mogul) isn't expected back.

"Earlier in the summer we anticipated that she was going to appear in the show, but those plans were postponed for personal reasons on Ms. Spelling's behalf," CW spokesman Paul McGuire said Monday. In June, Spelling gave birth to her second child with husband Dean McDermott.

There currently are no plans for the 35-year-old actress to be part of the new series, according to McGuire and Spelling's publicist, Meghan Prophet.

Heading into its third season, CW is aiming "90210" straight at its advertiser-coveted target audience, cool-conscious female viewers from 18 to 34 who buzz about CW's "Gossip Girl."

Like the original, "90210" is a fish-out-of-water tale about a Midwestern family transplanted to Los Angeles, the land of freeway jams and perpetual tans.

Although the original series' core family, the Walshes, were from Minnesota, the Wilson clan hails - with shades of Wizard of Ozian irony - from Kansas. Like siblings Brenda and Brandon Walsh (Doherty and Priestley), Annie Wilson (Grimes) and adopted brother Dixon (Tristan Wilds of "The Wire") are gorgeous, yet more grounded than their classmates at West Beverly Hills High School.

Among Annie and Dixon's new best friends are bad little rich girl Naomi (AnnaLynne McCord of "Nip/Tuck") and top jock Ethan (Dustin Milligan). There's Silver, a "Gossip Girl" type (Stroup), who produces her own tell-all video series on YouTube, and dirt-dishing, high-school newscaster Navid Shirazi (Michael Steger). The Wilson parents (Rob Estes and Lori Laughlin) seem hip and handsome in ways the Walsh parents (Carol Potter and James Eckhouse) were not.

"This has the glitz of an Aaron (Spelling) show, but at the same time Gabe and Jeff have taken it and given it a sense of humor - they really flip it on its ear sometimes," says Estes, who starred on Spelling's "Melrose Place" from 1993-1999.

"And they're also like 12-year-olds, you know?" Estes says. "They completely understand the electronic world, like texting."

The "90210" formula will also include product placement "as long as it doesn't hit you over the head," Sachs says. "I think it's important to show what kids really use."

But at the core of "90210," it's all about fresh faces, and who will break big.

"Things can take a turn, and you can get a big head, or get jaded," says Stroup of the fame game. "The next two weeks, we're going to be unveiling more and more ads and everybody that we talk to is saying, 'Get ready, get ready.' And we're all like, 'Where are we going to hide?'"

George Furth, Sondheim collaborator, dies

NEW YORK (AP)—George Furth, an actor and playwright who wrote the book for the innovative Stephen Sondheim musical "Company," died Monday. He was 75.

Furth died at a hospital in Santa Monica, Calif., said Dennis Aspland, his agent, who didn't know the cause of death.

Furth's collaboration with Sondheim started with 1970's "Company," an unconventional, revuelike musical which followed the tribulations of a thirtysomething New York bachelor and his inability to commit to a relationship. Furth won a Tony for his book of the show, which was directed by Harold Prince and featured the choreography of Michael Bennett.

"Company" has had two Broadway revivals since then - in 1995 and again in 2006 in a production where the actors also served as the show's musicians.

"Merrily We Roll Along," based on a play by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, was the duo's second musical collaboration. The 1981 show, which told its showbiz story in reverse chronology, closed in two weeks. Yet Sondheim's score remains a favorite of musical-theater buffs, and revised versions of "Merrily" have been done in various regional theaters as well as in London.

Furth and Sondheim also collaborated on "Getting Away with Murder," a comedy thriller that had a short Broadway run in 1996.

Furth began his career as an actor, appearing on Broadway in such short-lived productions as 1961's "A Cook for Mr. General" and the Judy Holliday musical "Hot Spot" in 1963.

As a playwright, Furth had several solo Broadway productions, most notably "Twigs" (1971), a comedy which won its star, Sada Thompson, a best-actress Tony. Directed by Michael Bennett, it told the story of four women, all members of the same family and all played by Thompson.

Among Furth's other Broadway efforts were the book for the John Kander-Fred Ebb musical "The Act" starring Liza Minnelli (1977) and two other plays, "The Supporting Cast" (1981) and "Precious Sons" (1986).

Furth also acted in movies including "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," "Myra Breckenridge," "Airport '77" and "Shampoo," as well as countless TV comedies.

There were no immediate survivors.

Poet's turbulent marriage remembered in diary

LONDON (AP)—It was a legendarily turbulent union, fueled by adoration, adultery and alcohol.

In the final hours of Dylan Thomas' life, his wife, Caitlin, according to lore, allegedly stormed in and demanded to know if the celebrated Welsh poet - who she described as the "bloody man" - was dead yet.

But like most marriages, it appears there was a different side, and in a diary that is now for sale, Caitlin Thomas wrote sadly about her dead husband.

"Oh God, oh Dylan, it must be cold down there; it is cold enough on top, in November: the dirtiest month of the year that killed you on the ninth vile day. If only I could take you a bowl of your bread, and milk, and salt, that you always drank at night, to warm you up," the diary says, according to notes provided by a London rare book dealer who is selling the collection.

The couple met in a London pub in 1936 and married a year later. Dylan Thomas died in New York on Nov. 9, 1953. Caitlin Thomas died in 1994.

Her writings, contained in a school exercise book, are included in a collection of more than 40 letters, books, and manuscripts and first editions. Rick Gekoski, the dealer who is selling the materials, said Monday that it came from a New York collector and is priced at $480,000.

Also up for sale is a first-edition copy of Thomas' second book, "Twenty-five Poems."

Easy-listening West Bank radio station goes off air

JERUSALEM (AP)—A West Bank radio station that sought to bring Israelis and Palestinians together to the tune of pop music has gone of the air because of a lack of funding.

RAM-FM had been broadcasting English-language talk shows and artists like Michael Bolton and Air Supply from a studio in the town of Ramallah since last year.

An official from the station confirmed Monday it went off the air last week.

In a statement, the station said it was unable "to generate sufficient advertising revenues to sustain its ongoing operation."

Owned by South African Jewish businessman Issy Kirsh, RAM-FM was modeled after a South African station that provided a venue for reconciliation after apartheid. It attracted fans in both Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Penelope Cruz has much to talk about

By TERESA WILTZ
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Penelope Cruz is busy, busy, busy. She's in her home town, Madrid, dashing to an evening shoot for Pedro Almodovar's "Los Abrazos Rotos" ("Broken Embraces"), while talking to us on her cell as her driver zips in and out of traffic. She's got two other films to plug: the mournful "Elegy" opposite Ben Kingsley, and Woody Allen's decidedly more cheerful "Vicky Cristina Barcelona," in which she locks lips with both Javier Bardem and Scarlett Johansson. (Not a big deal, she says, but "it was very crowded that day on the set.")

Q: So where are you based these days?

A: Madrid is always my main home because my family is here and I have a house here. And I spend a lot of time in Los Angeles. I have a home there, too. But I've always preferred New York. ... I fell in love with that city as soon as I landed.

Q: Do you still take ballet classes?

A: I don't do it unless I have a reason. Now this (filming the musical "Nine" with Daniel Day-Lewis, Nicole Kidman and Sophia Loren) is a very big reason, to dance five, six hours a day. Finally I was able to fully train and dance with a movie. I'm really excited about it.

Q: With "Elegy," it seems like you're really coming into your own with an English-language role.

A: Now that I have spent all those years studying, and living where they speak the language, I feel more free. I still have my accent, but I feel much more free now. ... (Woody Allen) asked sometimes for me to improvise in English and Spanish. I couldn't have done that three or four years ago. It's great not having to hear that anymore (that she doesn't speak English well). (She laughs.)

Q: And what was it like, working with Woody Allen?

A: He's not a man of too many words. But he gives you treasures. ... I would go to him with all these questions, all these theories of the character. He'd say, "We can do this if you want, but I trust where you're going with the character." But in a very respectful way. But very direct. And very funny. Of course. I would have liked more time, but he shoots the whole movie in like five weeks. Things go flying on his sets.

(She shrieks.)

Q: What happened?

A: We almost crashed with the car. My driver almost crashed with the car.

Actress Penelope Cruz attends a special screening of the new film by director Woody Allen, "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" on Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008 in New York.
AP

MOVIE REVIEW

'Clone Wars' is fun though forgettable

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

You'll know you're in a different galaxy within the first seconds of "Star Wars: The Clone Wars," which substitutes the Warner Bros. logo and theme music for the familiar 20th Century Fox searchlight and fanfare.

While anything remotely "Star Wars" potentially is a welcome trek for hard-core fans, however, it will be a mixed thrill given that the saga returns to the big screen as a cartoon.

George Lucas' prequel trilogy was so overloaded with computer-generated imagery that the digital animation of "Clone Wars" isn't much of a leap. The somber tone of those three movies—chronicling the downfall of Anakin Skywalker from snotty, brooding teen to black-hearted Darth Vader—is gone, replaced with a variation of the campy humor and camaraderie that characterized the original trilogy.

Still, a "Star Wars" movie should be an event. But whether because of its cartoony format or its relatively lightweight story, "Clone Wars" definitely is not an event.

For fans, it serves as a fairly promising introduction to the "Clone Wars" animated series debuting on Cartoon Network this fall. The movie centers on a fresh adventure of Anakin and his Jedi knight elder Obi-Wan Kenobi during the Clone Wars that have been so pivotal to "Star Wars" since the beginning—but about which we've heard so little.

There was a passing reference to this civil strife in 1977's "Star Wars" and a few glimpses of its onset in "Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones." The action here and in the TV series takes place between that movie and "Episode III—Revenge of the Sith," before Anakin goes bad.

The new movie sets up a seemingly bottomless well of story possibilities for the TV show. There are plenty of returning characters, new faces and bit players around which Lucas' team can build episodes, so the series hopefully won't be merely another 'Droids-vs.-Clones battle every week.

"Clone Wars" adapts a story arc director Dave Filoni (also the supervising director of the TV show) and company had been developing for the small screen.

Anakin (voiced by Matt Lanter) and Obi-Wan (James Arnold Taylor) start off in the heat of battle, leading a band of the Republic's clone soldiers against the comically inept android troops of a separatist movement led by the evil Count Dooku (Christopher Lee, reprising his live-action role).

To show Anakin's soft, mushy, pre-Vader side, he's given his own Jedi apprentice, Ahsoka Tano (Ashley Eckstein), a spunky alien girl who quickly forges a wisecracking bond with her usually stoic mentor.

The two are assigned to lead a rescue of giant slug crimelord Jabba the Hutt's squishy, squirmy baby Hutt, who has been kidnapped in a conspiracy that gives all our familiar prequel heroes a part to play.

Among them: Jedi masters Mace Windu (Samuel L. Jackson, also back from the live-action flicks) and Yoda, Anakin's future bride Padme Amidala, and androids R2-D2 and C-3PO (Anthony Daniels, who was featured in all six live-action movies).

Filoni, a veteran of the animated series "Avatar: The Last Airbender," and executive producer Lucas' team craft a distinct design to set the animated version apart from the live "Star Wars" universe.

The characters have a chiseled, almost harsh look to them (Obi-Wan's beard resembles a miniature snowplow that's been grafted to his face). Their movements are a bit jerky, deliberately patterned somewhat after Gerry Anderson's "Thunderbirds" and his other cult action series featuring puppets.

Why? The best guess is to make good on the promise that this is "Star Wars" as you've never seen it. The jerky motions seem at odds with the fluid acrobatics of Jedi warriors, but this probably will be far less noticeable once the "Clone Wars" adventures move to the small screen.

While the movie has a huge body count as ray guns and light sabers flash, "Clone Wars" comes off as rather cute overall. The Shakespearean tragedy of Anakin's transformation into Vader behind him, Lucas turns his gang loose to be merry, even silly.

Again, that tone probably will work better in the shorter TV installments. In theaters, it makes for a reasonably fun if generally forgettable story, at least in terms of the grand-opera standards of the live-action "Star Wars" films.

Maybe it's for the best that this movie landed under the Warner Bros. banner. "Clone Wars" simply could not have lived up to that breathless pause of anticipation that always rises in the silence between the Fox fanfare and the first blaring note of the "Star Wars" theme, which also has been modified to let audiences know at the outset that this is a galaxy a bit farther out than they're used to.

"Star Wars: The Clone Wars," a Warner Bros. release, is rated PG for sci-fi action violence throughout, brief language and momentary smoking. Running time: 98 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.

AP

In this image released by Warner Bros. & Lucasfilm Ltd., Count Dooku unleashes dark side lightning in a scene from "Star Wars: The Clone Wars."

Motion Picture Association of America rating definitions:

- G —General audiences. All ages admitted.
- PG —Parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.
- PG-13 —Special parental guidance strongly suggested for children under 13. Some material may be inappropriate for young children.
- R —Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.
- NC-17 —No one under 17 admitted.

Panettiere father accused of striking wife

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The father of "Heroes" star Hayden Panettiere was arrested early Monday on suspicion of hitting his wife, authorities said.

Alan Panettiere was arrested by Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies in West Hollywood and detained on suspicion of spousal assault, sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said. He was later released after posting $50,000 bail.

Whitmore declined to name the woman that Panettiere is accused of hitting, but said she reported to deputies that he struck the woman three times with an open hand.

Whitmore said detectives would not release a mug shot of Panettiere.

Los Angeles court records do not indicate any prior charges for the 49-year-old father of Hayden Panettiere, who plays Claire Bennett on NBC's hit show, "Heroes."

A phone message left with Hayden Panettiere's publicist was not returned Monday.

AP

In this June 21, 2008 file photo, Jansen Panettiere, center, poses with his parents Lesley Vogel and Alan Panettiere at the Disney Pixar world premiere of "Wall E" in Los Angeles.

Former Blink-182 bassist sues over bad investment

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Former Blink-182 bassist Mark Hoppus sued a father-and-son business Monday, alleging they pocketed his investment in a venture to install automated checkout machines at McDonald's restaurants.

The lawsuit in San Diego Superior Court says Ed and Jeff Mitchell lined their pockets "to the tune of over $1.5 million." It alleges their company - Missicom LLC of San Diego - does not have any contracts to install the machines to take orders and collect payments at McDonald's or anywhere else.

Hoppus, currently a member of the pop-punk band Plus-44, invested $600,000 in Missicom in October 2003, according to the complaint. The lawsuit says the Mitchells raised nearly $3.4 million and solicited millions of dollars from "prominent, well-known figures."

Hoppus' attorney, Howard King, said in a news release that other investors included golfer Phil Mickelson and former Blink-182 members Tom Delonge and Travis Barker. After Blink-182 disbanded, Hoppus and Barker formed Plus-44.

The lawsuit alleging gross negligence and breach of fiduciary duty seeks unspecified damages against Missicom and the Mitchells. It amends a complaint that Hoppus filed in 2006 against former business manager Louis Tommasino over the soured investment, which is scheduled for trial Sept. 8.

Hee Haw' reruns to air on RFD-TV

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Reruns of the old cornpone comedy-variety show "Hee Haw" are coming back.

The one-hour programs will air at 8 p.m. Eastern time each Sunday beginning Sept. 7 on cable's RFD-TV, which bills itself as "rural America's most important network." "`Hee Haw' and RFD-TV is a match made in heaven," Patrick Gottsch, the channel's founder and president, said Monday in announcing the deal.

"Hee Haw" was on the air somewhere for 28 years—first on CBS for two years starting in 1969, then in first-run syndication for two decades. Reruns aired on the old Nashville Network cable station from 1994 to 1997 and briefly on CMT in 2006.

Country performers Roy Clark and Buck Owens were co-hosts, Clark for the entire run and Owens for 17 seasons.

The show, which got its name from the sound of a donkey braying, originated as a country version of "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In."

Creditor sues McMahon, wife, over $250,000 loan

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ed McMahon is being sued by another creditor. Westmoore Lending of Huntington Beach, Calif., sued McMahon for more than $275,000 it says the pitchman and former "Tonight Show" sidekick owes from a 2006 loan.

A growing number of creditors say McMahon and his wife Pamela owe them money. The other actions have targeted debts incurred for the couple's Beverly Hills home, prescription drugs, credit card debt and attorneys' fees for his daughter's divorce.

The lawsuit filed Monday in Los Angeles Superior Court does not specify what the McMahons borrowed the money for, but claims they defaulted on the loan in early 2007.

A spokesman for McMahon said Monday that he hadn't seen the lawsuit yet.

Left or right, Obama books are hot

AP

Presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., leaves a movie theater in Honolulu, Hawaii Monday, Aug. 11, 2008. Sen. Obama is in Hawaii for a vacation.

NEW YORK (AP)—Whether they like him or oppose him, readers want to hear more about Barack Obama.

"The Obama Nation," an anti-Obama book written by Jerome V. Corsi, will debut at No. 1 come Sunday on The New York Times' hardcover nonfiction best-seller list. Corsi was co-author of "Unfit for Command," an influential 2004 best-seller that condemned the Vietnam War record of then Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

Obama, the Democrats' presumptive nominee in 2008, is himself the author of the million-selling "Dreams From My Father" and "The Audacity of Hope."

Interest in him is so strong that even an upcoming policy book, usually the toughest of sells, is catching on.

Cruising with old date may cause friction with 'Mr. New'

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am a single woman who dates and is not in a serious relationship right now. I'm enjoying my life, having fun, but have met someone along the way who is becoming important. I'm getting the same vibes from him.

Before meeting "Mr. New," I booked a Caribbean vacation with someone I have dated off and on for a few years. Now I'm worried. What if things progress with Mr. New? How will I tell him, and how will he feel about my going on vacation with "Mr. Standby"? I don't think lying is the answer, but I could say I was going with a girlfriend. But what if we become something more and he finds out I lied to him?

The trip is coming up soon and I don't know when—or if—I should tell Mr. New. Who knows? We could be over by then, although I hope not. Any advice would be appreciated.

SINGLE GIRL IN PINE HILL, N.J.

DEAR SINGLE GIRL: I'm surprised you would still be enthusiastic about "tripping" with Mr. Standby while you're falling for Mr. New. Do not lie. The truth has a way of coming out, and if you do, it will wreck your credibility and the romance as well.

I advise you to level with Standby and let him know you met someone. He needs to find another travel companion ASAP. There will probably be a penalty for assigning your pre-purchased ticket to someone else. If there is, offer to pay it. It's the price of being honorable.

P.S. If Mr. New does not turn out to be Mr. Right, you can always take another trip with Mr. Standby next year if he is still willing to date you. (However, if he reads Dear Abby and recognizes that you consider him only "Mr. Standby," he may not be.)

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are expecting our first child and selected names some time ago. If it's a boy, we'll name him Ethan; if it's a girl, we'll call her Ardith.

My father sent us a nasty e-mail telling us he's praying we have a boy because he couldn't imagine "saddling a child with a name like Ardith." This from a man who named his son "Seymour Herbert" and stuck with a last name that is an insult in two languages. (My brother and I grew so sick of being reminded of it that we changed our last name.) It wasn't even our original family name, but a badly Americanized name-gone-wrong that was laid on our grandfather when he came to this country.

My husband and I found my father's remarks extremely hurtful and wrote him to explain why we chose the name Ardith, but Dad persists in saying how much he hates our choice.

We know the name is old-fashioned and unusual. But considering what some celebrities name their children these days, Ardith doesn't seem weird to us. If she dislikes her name, we'll help her change it later, but I doubt that will happen. Meanwhile, how do we deal with my father when he keeps bugging us?

EXPECTING ANY DAY NOW IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR EXPECTING: By standing your ground and refusing to be intimidated. The privilege of choosing a child's name belongs to his or her parents. If Grandpa doesn't like it, suggest that he call your daughter "Darling," or "Honey." Both are endearments and would be his "special" name for her.

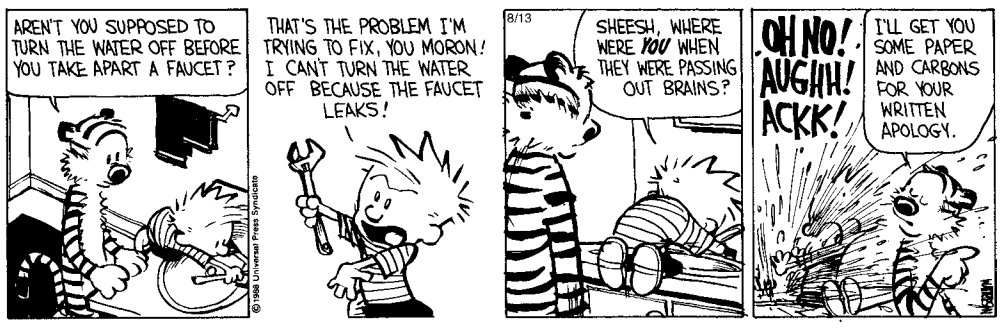
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

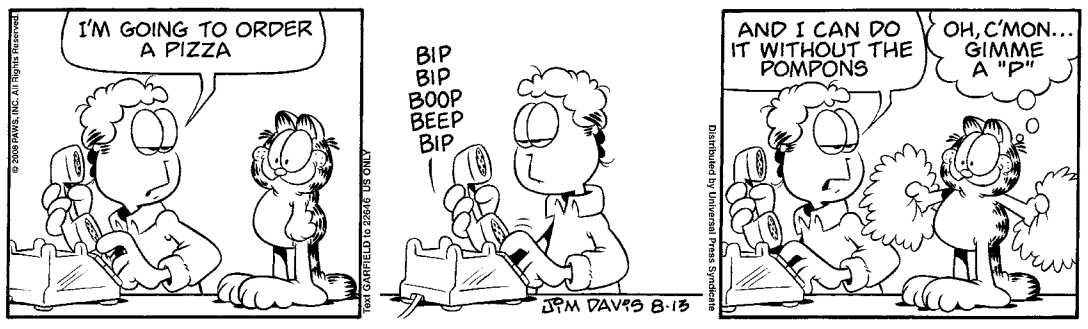
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO TURN THE WATER OFF BEFORE YOU TAKE APART A FAUCET?
THAT'S THE PROBLEM I'M TRYING TO FIX, YOU MORON! I CAN'T TURN THE WATER OFF BECAUSE THE FAUCET LEAKS!
8/13
SHEESH, WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THEY WERE PASSING OUT BRAINS?
OH NO! AUGHH! ACKK!
I'LL GET YOU SOME PAPER AND CARBONS FOR YOUR WRITTEN APOLOGY.
© 1988 Universal Press Syndicate

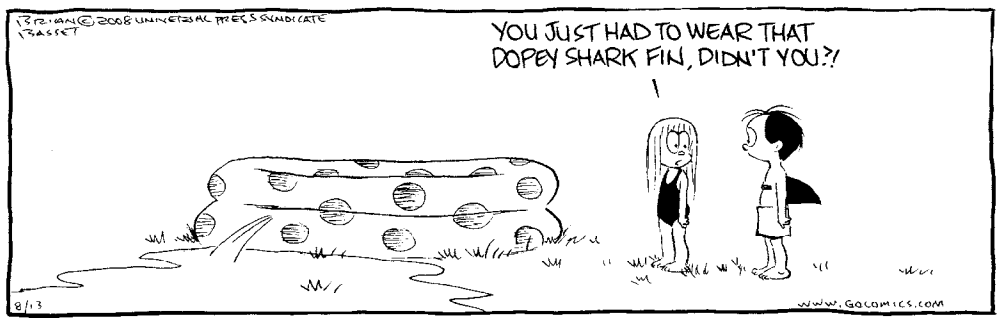
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I'M GOING TO ORDER A PIZZA
© 2008 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
Text GARFIELD to 22646 US ONLY
BIP BIP BOOP BEEP BIP
JIM DAVIS 8-13
AND I CAN DO IT WITHOUT THE POMPONS
OH, C'MON... GIMME A "P"
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THESE OLYMPIC CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP DEALS ARE GOING TOO FAR.
YEAH. THEY SHOULDN'T ALLOW THAT ATHLETE TO DRINK A SODA DURING THE MEDAL CEREMONY.
8-13 08
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Frau's mister
5 Conger or moray
8 Impale
12 "It's a Sin to Tell —"
13 Twisted
14 Carry on
15 1991 De Niro novie
17 Tourney format
18 Jack
19 Exit
21 Pound of poetry
24 Peculiar
25 Employer
28 Wheel-base terminus
30 "Cabaret" lyricist Fred
33 Easy as —
34 Earlier
35 Bill's partner
36 Round Table title
37 "— Flux"
38 Old card game for three
39 Put on a show
41 Contemptible
43 Go up against
46 "You can — horse ..."
50 Burpee buy
51 Peanut butter enhancer
54 Earring location
55 Eviscerate
56 Author Grey
57 Cameo stone
58 Witness
59 Former mates

DOWN
1 Cabbie
2 Verve
3 Philbin co-host
4 "Hollywoodland" subject
5 Ram's fan?
6 Detergent brand
7 Muse's music-maker
8 Duel tool
9 CD player's ancestor
10 A long time
11 Stein and Stiller
16 Shriner's cap
20 Active one
22 Exceptional
23 Words to live by
25 — -relief
26 Sapporo sash
27 Manage somehow
29 Unescorted
31 Feathery accessory
32 Automaton, for short
34 Margarine servings
38 Cold symptom
40 Ancient manuscript
42 Jungfrau, for one
43 Norway's capital
44 Drudge
45 Coop collection
47 Trojan War warrior
48 Hamlet was one
49 Iowa city
52 Regret
53 Noshed

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	R	G	O	■	Y	A	K	■	H	I	E	D
B	I	E	L	■	E	K	E	■	E	R	G	O
C	O	L	D	P	L	A	Y	■	R	O	A	R
■	■	■	H	I	P	■	B	R	A	N	D	Y
W	O	M	A	N	■	F	O	A	L	■	■	■
O	B	I	T	■	P	L	A	Y	D	E	A	D
R	O	C	■	P	E	E	R	S	■	T	W	O
D	E	A	D	H	E	A	D	■	M	U	L	L
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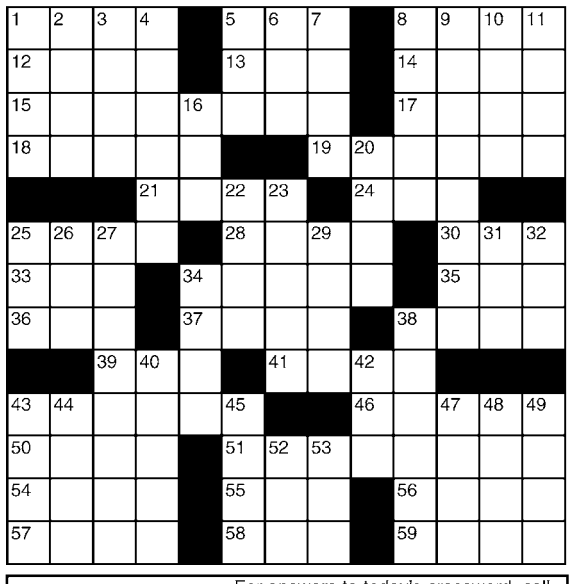
S	P	O	O	L	S	■	B	E	D	■	■	■
T	O	R	O	■	H	E	A	D	C	O	L	D
A	S	A	P	■	O	R	B	■	A	V	I	D
R	E	L	Y	■	W	A	Y	■	P	A	S	T

Yesterday's answer 8-13



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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shani Davis, 26; Dawnn Lewis, 47; Feargal Sharkey, 49; Kathleen Battle, 60

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on putting everything in your life back on track. This is a perfect year to buckle down and work hard. Your accomplishments will change your life and bring about opportunities for the next year. A change of location may be the perfect solution to a problem you haven't been able to solve. Your numbers are 8, 10, 26, 34, 40, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Offer assistance to help finish a project or get something off the ground. In return, you'll receive help with something you've been struggling with. Business ventures look good. Personal matters will plague you. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Review what's expected of you before you make a decision to take on something that will be impossible to finish. You are better off disappointing someone by saying no. Romance is in the stars and you need time to nurture the one you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Upgrade your living space but don't overspend on items that you really don't need. Simplicity will help rid your life of the clutter and baggage you've accumulated. Reassess, recycle and regroup. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll be high emotionally and in the mood for romance and passion. Getting together with someone you think is special will ease your mind and help you make the changes that are so hard to do alone. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Figure everything out ahead of time and you will be prepared to do a bang up job that brings great results coupled with praise. A change regarding a settlement or investment will help to confirm your position. Someone from your past will vouch for you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take on a new project or hobby or join a club or group that will get you mingling with interesting new people. Participation will get you involved in the hub of any organization you belong to. Become a leader and gain control. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Rationalizing that things are OK when they are not will cause more confusion. Someone will overreact to what you are doing if you make the wrong choices. You are better off getting involved in an organization that supports a cause you believe in. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Serious talks are a must, especially if the end result helps you get the support needed to move forward with a project. A personal and professional group of friends can make your job easier and give you a broader vision of the possibilities. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Decide what you need to accomplish so you can target your every move. Gather people who can help. Be careful, however. Someone close to you may try to dismantle your plans. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Contact people from your past who have information that would help you out now. You are in a better position to make offers as well as accept them. Love, money and serious connections can be yours. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Honesty will be the deciding factor as to whether or not you come out on top. Living a lie will not help you move on. Clear up old debts and you will open a passage that has not been available to you for some time. A secret will be revealed. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Be the instigator and you will gain control and convince others to help you out. Say what you mean and you will get everything set up and moving forward. Let someone you care about know exactly how you feel. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong, dependable and determined to follow through with your plans. You are a savvy dealmaker who plays to win.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

6	8	1						
3			1			6		
7		2		3		4	9	
	9			1				
		4	7		5	8		
				6			4	
		3		8		7		9
	6				2			4
9						1	6	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	1	5	7	6	2	4	3
7	2	5	4	1	3	8	6	9
6	4	3	2	9	8	7	1	5
1	5	8	7	4	2	9	3	6
3	7	9	8	6	1	4	5	2
4	6	2	9	3	5	1	8	7
9	3	7	6	8	4	5	2	1
5	8	6	1	2	9	3	7	4
2	1	4	3	5	7	6	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BRANTFORD, ONTARIO **Solution: 9 letters**

G	S	F	T	E	H	O	M	E	S	T	E	A	D	H
E	N	R	W	(N)	(W)	(O)	(T)	C	H	A	P	E	L	S
N	O	I	T	A	V	R	E	S	N	O	C	L	E	I
T	I	E	R	U	T	N	E	V	D	A	R	O	L	F
E	T	N	A	U	I	E	G	A	T	I	R	E	H	N
R	A	D	I	C	T	O	R	O	N	T	O	I	M	O
T	C	L	L	H	O	C	K	E	Y	L	K	P	O	S
A	I	Y	S	T	R	E	A	M	A	E	H	D	H	R
I	N	K	R	O	N	R	A	F	T	I	N	G	A	E
N	U	Z	O	E	E	A	F	L	U	A	A	S	W	D
M	M	T	N	V	L	U	E	O	R	N	E	R	K	N
E	M	E	I	E	B	L	N	G	K	M	A	R	T	A
N	O	R	S	N	A	D	A	N	A	C	A	M	P	S
T	C	G	A	T	H	A	I	G	S	P	O	R	T	S
Y	T	I	C	S	E	G	L	E	N	H	Y	R	S	T

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Yesterday's Answer: Blonde

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Jets receivers adjusting to Favre

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP)—Brett Favre's impact is already being felt by his new receivers' stinging hands. "Whatever route you have, you better run it hard because the ball could be coming," wide receiver Jerricho Cotchery said Monday.

"If you're not looking, you may get hit in the head."

That hasn't happened yet, but Favre's new Jets teammates are doing all they can to get used to the high-speed throws from their rifle-armed quarterback.

"Not many people realize how quick his release is," tight end Bubba Franks said. "It's starting to show, the guy can still play football."

Cotchery is doing extra hand-strengthening exercises. Chris Baker and Dustin Keller are spending time after practice catching close-range passes from the JUGS machine, learning that they always need to be ready.

"As soon as you come out of your break, the ball's right here," Keller said. "You just have to have your hands up real quick."

The Jets haven't had a starting quarterback who could throw the ball like Favre perhaps since Vinny Testaverde was in his prime in the late-1990s. Chad Pennington was always praised for having terrific leadership skills, but was knocked for his weak arm and inability to spread the ball down the field consistently.

"When you have a guy who can pressure the defense in many ways, you know every route's available on the field," Cotchery said. "There's no clear out routes."

Backup Kellen Clemens, who started eight games last season, has an impressive arm. Favre, though, is simply on another level.

"I wouldn't only say it's just how fast the ball is coming," said Keller, a rookie tight end. "He's not going to wait for your eye contact. He expects you to be ready for the ball."

Favre, acquired late last Wednesday from Green Bay, has long been regarded as one of the game's true gunslingers. Even at 38 and only four practices into a new career with the Jets, the NFL's career leader in several passing categories has flashed the skills that have made him special.

"There's no such thing as a decoy route, not as long as you have Brett back there," said Franks, who played with Favre for eight years in Green Bay. "Like I tell the guys, even when you're covered, you're not really covered. If you have two hands and two arms, you're not covered because he's going to hit one of them, so just find a way. As long as you can see him, he can see you."

Favre, given a second straight day off from speaking with the media, has wowed the large crowds packing Hofstra University to catch a glimpse of their new quarterback with a few classic throws.

There was the pretty 35-yarder down the right sideline to Cotchery on Sunday, and later, a flawless spiral that hit Cotchery in stride down the left sideline for 75 yards, about 65 yards in the air. On Monday, Favre connected with Laveranues Coles while running the 2-minute offense, hitting the receiver for 31 yards on a timing pattern into the left corner of the end zone.

"He just threw it up in the air and let him get it, and you're like, 'Wow. He put it right where it needed to be,'" Keller said. "Laveranues could've closed his eyes and it was right there in his hands."

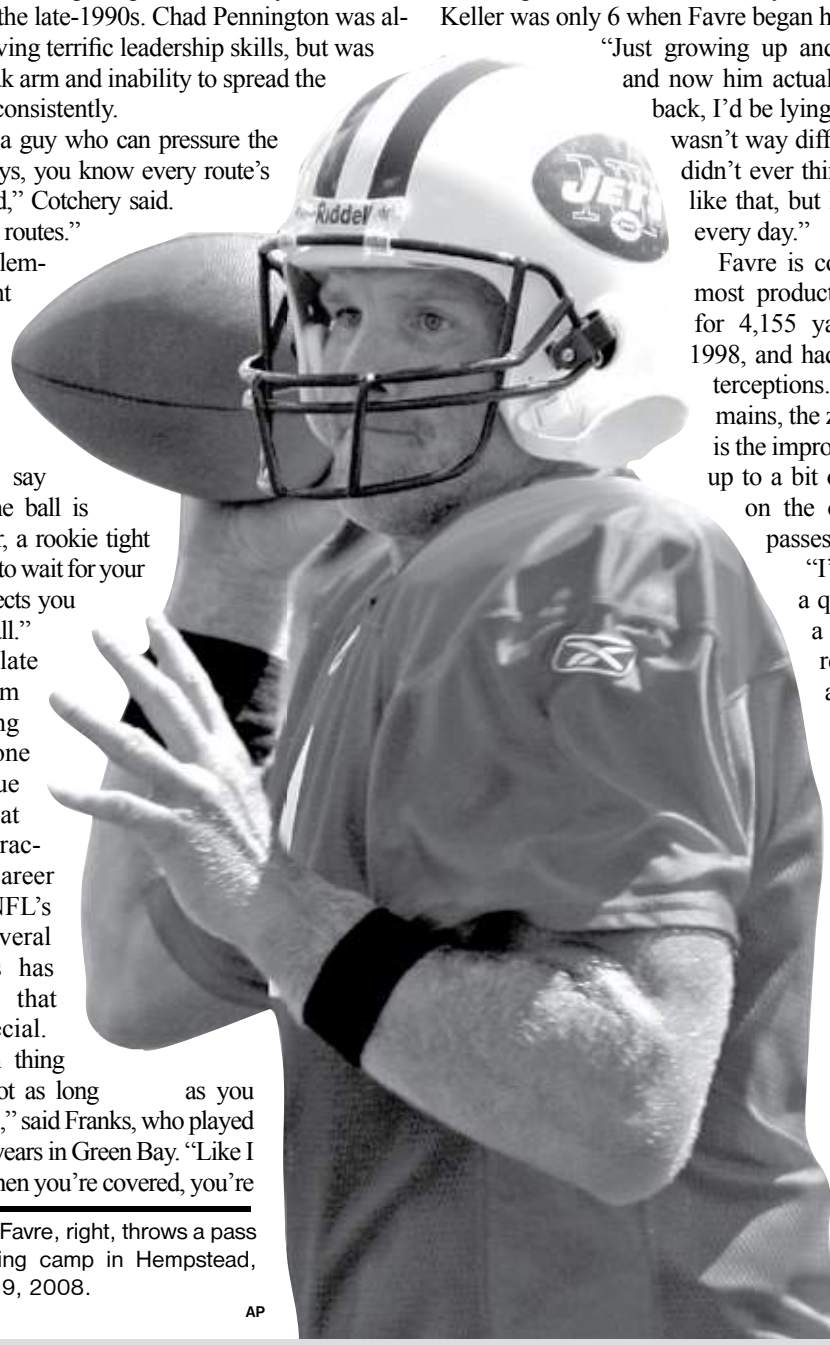
Some of the Jets players admit to being slightly awed by Favre's presence. That's certainly understandable. After all, Keller was only 6 when Favre began his career.

"Just growing up and watching him play and now him actually being my quarterback, I'd be lying to you if I told you it wasn't way different," Keller said. "I didn't ever think it was going to be like that, but I'm getting used to it every day."

Favre is coming off one of his most productive seasons, passing for 4,155 yards, his most since 1998, and had 28 TDs with 15 interceptions. While some rust remains, the zip is still there and so is the improvisation. All that adds up to a bit of adjusting for those on the other end of Favre's passes.

"I've never played with a quarterback who's had a no-look pass in their repertoire," Keller said after a few minutes of standing in front of a JUGS machine and catching footballs. "You would think it's a lot harder to catch because it's coming so fast, but his spiral is so tight that it's actually a lot easier to catch."

Favre immediately makes the Jets a potentially dangerous vertical offense, capable of getting into scoring shootouts with any team. That means good news for the entire receiving corps.



New York Jets' Brett Favre, right, throws a pass during football training camp in Hempstead, N.Y., Saturday, Aug. 9, 2008.

AP

Seahawks' Bobby Engram sidelined 6 to 8 weeks

KIRKLAND, Wash. (AP)—Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Bobby Engram will miss six to eight weeks with a cracked bone in his right shoulder sustained on the first play of Friday's preseason game against Minnesota, adding to the injuries on offense for the defending four-time NFC West champions.

"It was a freak deal," coach Mike Holmgren said Monday, adding Engram remained in the game.

Holmgren said the worst case for Engram would be missing three regular-season games and returning for facing the defending Super Bowl champion New York Giants on Oct. 5.

The 35-year-old Engram set a franchise record last season with 94 catches then skipped Seattle's offseason minicamps while in a dispute over a contract that expires after this season. The Seahawks are refusing to negotiate a deal beyond the one paying him $1.7 million this season.

The offense was also missing Pro Bowl quarterback Matt Hasselbeck on Monday, for the second consecutive day. He has a stiff back that first tightened while he played two series against the Vikings.

"He tweaked it a little bit in the game, did something," Holmgren said. "He's taking it easy, taking a couple of days."

When asked if Hasselbeck might miss Saturday's preseason game against Chicago, the coach said, "I suppose there's a chance, but we haven't even talked about it yet."

Holmgren said the injury is not a previous issue, just a one-time tweak from Friday's game.

"Now look it, if you ask Matt, he'll give you the history of his back since he was 11," Holmgren joked.

Hasselbeck didn't seem concerned after practice. He joked around while hosting a small group of grade-school boys in the locker room area.

Also Monday, Seattle terminated the contract of former first-round draft choice Marcus Tubbs. The former starting defensive tackle kept having setbacks following surgery a year ago on his right knee.

The loss of Engram is more than a minor setback to Holmgren's offense, which is already ailing.

Nate Burleson is Seattle's only healthy, accomplished veteran wide receiver. Deion Branch, a former Super Bowl MVP, may not be ready for the opener and won't even test his surgically reconstructed left knee on the practice field until the first week of September.

Hasselbeck and Engram arrived together in Seattle in 2001.

"Bobby is a very important part of what we do offensively," Holmgren said. "The young-ins have to step up and play, we've said that already. And now they just have to do it for a while."

Those kids include second-year man Courtney Taylor, who is taking Engram's spot, plus third-year veteran Ben Obomanu, undrafted free agent Michael Bumpus from Washington State and former practice squad player Logan Payne.

Center Chris Spencer, who had shoulder surgery in the offseason, did not return as expected Monday from a back injury that has kept him out of training camp. Guard Steve Vallos, a seventh-round draft choice last year, is the first-team center trying to learn on the fly the line's pre-snap calls on blocking assignments.

"No way did he think he was going to be in this position six months ago—and now here you are," Holmgren said of Vallos. "Who knows? He might be the starting center on opening day."

The early injuries to Engram and Branch may have a trickle-down effect on players who are trying to make the team elsewhere—such as seventh-round pick Justin Forsett, a running back from California, or undrafted rookie safety Jamar Adams from Michigan.

Holmgren likes to keep a total of 11 wide receivers and running backs on his 53-man roster for the regular season. He may have to keep more receivers this season, if he holds to his plan of keeping Engram and Branch on the roster for the start of the season.

"Yeah, absolutely, we've talked about that very thing," Holmgren said. "Now even if I wanted to go a different way, you can't mess around because we will have two receivers who are going to be on the roster who will not be playing.

Rodgers sharp, but Packers fall to Bengals, 20-17

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Aaron Rodgers shrugged off a shaky beginning as Brett Favre's replacement.

In his first start for the Green Bay Packers, Rodgers delivered a pair of scoring drives and a handful of highlights in a 20-17 preseason loss to the Cincinnati Bengals on Monday night.

The Packers definitively handed Rodgers the keys to one of the NFL's best offenses after trading Favre to the New York Jets last week - ending an ugly, monthlong divorce with one of the most beloved players in franchise history.

And despite spending most of the past three seasons holding a clipboard, Rodgers didn't show many signs of nerves in his first step out of Favre's shadow. The Bengals tagged Rodgers for an early interception off of a deflected pass, but he recovered to complete 9 of 15 throws for 117 yards and a touchdown.

Rodgers was greeted warmly by fans before the game, with a significant portion giving him a standing ovation.

"I've always felt like we have the best fans in the NFL, and that they would support our team, regardless of how they feel about myself, or Brett, or management or whatever," Rodgers said. "But it was a great reception when we took the field."

Rodgers could have had a second scoring strike, but couldn't connect on a deep ball to wide open receiver James Jones on the Packers' third drive. On the next play, Rodgers threw a crisp 30-yard pass to Ruvell Martin on third-and-2 that helped set up a 37-yard field goal by Mason Crosby.

On the Packers' next possession, Jones caught a dart from Rodgers and ran for a 30-yard touchdown - despite bouncing off a jarring hit from Bengals safety Marvin White that knocked off his helmet. As Jones completed a "Lambeau Leap" into the grandstands, Rodgers ran down the field to congratulate him.

"I understand the attention around him, his performance tonight and him playing tonight." Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "But I saw Aaron just like he is every day. I thought he went out there, he played with excellent energy, which I always recall him playing with. I think he's done a really good job being consistent, and understanding that the microscope is on him, with all the attention. But those are really outside, external forces that we can't really pay attention to."

Rodgers left the game after the first quarter, with the Packers leading 10-0 after a sluggish performance by the Bengals' No. 1 offense.

Playing without running back Rudi Johnson and wide receiver T.J. Houshmandzadeh, Cincinnati didn't gain a first down until early in the second quarter.

Carson Palmer finished the game 5-for-9 for 33 yards with a touchdown, connecting with tight end Ben Utecht for a 14-yard score early in the second quarter.

Backup Ryan Fitzpatrick took over and led the Bengals on a drive, handing off to Chris Perry for a 6-yard touchdown that put Cincinnati ahead 14-10. Fitzpatrick led the Bengals into Packers territory again later in the quarter, and Shayne Graham's 43-yard field goal put the Bengals ahead 17-10 going into halftime.

"Offensively, we got off to a slow start, but we picked up the pace as the half went on," Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said.

Graham added a 32-yarder in the fourth quarter. Packers rookie Matt Flynn connected with running back Kregg Lumpkin for an 11-yard touchdown with just over three minutes left in the game.

Bengals wide receiver Chad Johnson played into the second quarter, catching one pass for 10 yards.

Martin, one of Rodgers' favorite targets in practice, left the game with a head injury in the second quarter. He walked off the field unassisted but didn't return.

China wins gold, US bronze in men's gymnastics

By DENNIS PASSA
AP SPORTS WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—China's male gymnasts have something in common with Michael Phelps: they're as dominant in their sport as the American is in the pool.

While Phelps won his third gold medal Tuesday in the 200-meter freestyle, putting him nearly halfway to his quest of eight to break Mark Spitz's record from 1972, the Chinese gymnasts finished off what they started in qualifying Saturday.

They easily won the gold medal in the finals of the team event, more than seven points ahead of 2004 champion Japan. The United States took the bronze.

Phelps has nine Olympic golds, tying him with four others for the most in Olympic history. The Chinese gymnastics team is equally impressive internationally: winning three straight world titles and seven of the last eight, 10 individual world titles and now, after a collapse at Athens, a second Olympic team gold.

Li Xiaopeng is 27 and competing in his third Olympics for China.

"I think I'm a little old for a gymnast." Li said. "We had been through a lot over the last eight years. We put so much effort into this competition."

Chinese divers look set to match their gymnastic compatriots' exploits, winning their third gold in three events and with a sweep of all eight looking possible.

Wang Xin and Chen Ruolin scored 363.54 points to finish nearly 30 points ahead of second-place Australia (Briony Cole and Melissa Wu) in the women's 10-meter synchro platform.

Racing out of lane six at the Water Cube, Phelps surged to the lead and led by a full body length halfway through the second of four laps and was ahead of the world record pace for nearly the whole race. He was nearly two seconds ahead of second-place Park Tae-hwan when he touched in 1 minute, 42.96 seconds, breaking the mark of 1:43.86 he set at last year's world championships.

AP
Japan's gymnasts Tomita Hiroyuki, and Sakamoto Toki pose along with China's gymnasts Zou Kai, Yang Wei, Xiao Qin, Li Xiaopeng, Huang Xu and Chen Yibing, from left, during the medal ceremny after the men's team final at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008.

"I just wanted to be out at the 50-meter point and that's where I was," Phelps said. "I was in open water and it was difficult for the other guys to see me."

Park, who won gold in the 400 freestyle, was impressed with what he could see.

"Phelps swam so fast," Park said. "It is my honor to compete with him."

The American will go for his fourth and fifth medals, and 10th and 11th overall, on Wednesday in the 200 butterfly and the 4x200 freestyle relay. He was the fastest qualifier Tuesday in the butterfly, in which he holds the world record.

Elsewhere in the pool, the Americans won two other golds. Aaron Peirsol won the 100 backstroke, defending his title with a world-record time. Natalie Coughlin won the 100 backstroke, becoming the first woman to ever defend her title in the event, while Leisel Jones of Australia took the 100 breaststroke.

In shooting, Jin Jong-oh of South Korea won gold in men's 50-meter pistol, holding on despite a poor final shot to edge Kim Jong Su of North Korea. Glenn Eller of the United States won the men's double trap.

In tennis, sisters Serena and Venus Williams advanced to the third round. Serena defeated Samantha Stosur of Australia 6-2, 6-0 and Venus beat Iveta Benesova of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-4.

In beach volleyball, Kerri Walsh and Misty May-Treanor are doing some dominating of their own. The defending Olympic champions from the United States beat Dalixia Fernandez Grasset and Tamara Larrea of Cuba 21-15, 21-16 for their 103rd consecutive victory.

The U.S. softball team began its run toward a fourth straight gold medal as Jennie Finch pitched five no-hit innings and Andrea Duran drove in three runs, powering the Americans to an 11-0 rout over Venezuela. Canada defeated Taiwan 6-1.

On Wednesday, the Americans face longtime nemesis Australia, a rematch of the gold-medal game in Athens which the United States won 5-1. Softball is making its last appearance at the Olympics.

Gold medals were also to be presented in canoeing, weightlifting, judo and fencing. The equestrian team and individual eventing medals were also to be decided following the final stadium jumping discipline.

Perkins, Everett lead Twins to 4-0 win against slumping Yankees

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Brand new dad Glen Perkins pitched eight outstanding innings and light-hitting Adam Everett hit a two-run homer, lifting the Minnesota Twins over the reeling New York Yankees 4-0 in the American League on Monday.

Perkins (9-3) allowed four hits and three walks while striking out four, and got a standing ovation when he left after the eighth.

Joe Nathan fanned Bobby Abreu, Alex Rodriguez and Xavier Nady in the ninth to complete the first shutout of the Yankees at the Metrodome since June 1996.

Former Twin Sidney Ponson (7-3) gave up four runs and seven hits in 7 2-3 innings, just his second loss for the Yankees after starting the season with Texas.

Red Sox 5, White Sox 1

At Chicago, Josh Beckett pitched eight strong innings as Boston beat Chicago even though John Danks took a no-hitter into the seventh.

Kevin Youkilis' broken-bat single with one out ended the no-hit bid and J.D. Drew's two-run double put Boston ahead 2-1. Jed Lowrie added a two-run double in the ninth as the Red Sox gained a four-game split and moved within four games of first-place Tampa Bay in the AL East.

While Danks retired his first 17 batters, the White Sox did little against Beckett (11-8), who yielded seven hits, struck out eight and did not walk a batter.

Indians 13, Orioles 8

At Cleveland, Asdrubal Cabrera homered, then doubled in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and Cleveland earned its fourth straight victory.

The Indians took an early 5-0 lead but fell behind 8-7. Cleveland scored three times in the seventh, and Ben Francisco and Andy Gonzalez homered in the eighth.

Nick Markakis had three hits and drove in four runs for Baltimore, which took an 8-7 lead in a five-run seventh.

Pinch-hitter Jamey Carroll's bases-loaded sacrifice fly off Rocky Cherry (0-1) in the bottom half tied it. Jamie Walker replaced Cherry and Cabrera got an RBI double when his sharp grounder went off the glove of third baseman Melvin Mora and into left field. Grady Sizemore's RBI groundout made it 10-8.

Blue Jays 7, Tigers 2

At Detroit, Justin Verlander struggled yet again and Toronto roughed him up to snap a three-game losing streak.

Rod Barajas had a homer and three RBIs for the Blue Jays. Toronto scored just four runs in three games while getting swept by the Indians over the weekend.

Verlander (8-13) lasted just 4 1-3 innings, giving up six runs and seven hits. The 2006 AL rookie of the year has conceded 24 earned runs over his last four starts—the most he's ever allowed in a four-start span—losing each of them to equal the worst skid of his career.

Toronto's Shaun Marcum (7-5) allowed two runs and eight hits over six innings.

Pirates 7, Mets 5

At New York, Steve Pearce hit a two-out, two-run single in the ninth inning as the Pittsburgh Pirates became the latest team to take advantage of the Mets' shaky bullpen, rallying past New York in the National League.

The Mets led 5-1 when Pedro Martinez left after six innings, but five relievers couldn't preserve the edge. The Pirates, in town to play a makeup game, scored three times in the seventh and three more in the ninth.

It marked the ninth time this season New York lost a game in which it led in the eighth inning or later. The Mets have struggled lately without injured All-Star closer Billy Wagner.

Doug Mientkiewicz had three hits and drove in two runs for Pittsburgh.

Brewers 7, Nationals 1

At Milwaukee, Rickie Weeks and Corey Hart hit home runs and Dave Bush pitched a five-hitter over 6 1-3 innings to help Milwaukee sweep Washington in four games.

Weeks led off the first with a homer and Hart added a two-run homer in the fourth. Craig Counsell's two-run double and a bases-loaded walk off reliever Charlie Manning in the seventh helped the Brewers swept the Nationals at Miller Park for the second consecutive season.

The Brewers' sixth straight victory moved them 3 1-2 games ahead of St. Louis for the National League wild card.

Cardinals 4, Marlins 2

At Miami, Yadier Molina hit a two-run homer, Joel Pineiro pitched seven strong innings and St. Louis beat Florida in a matchup of surprising playoff contenders.

Joe Mather added a pinch-hit home run in the ninth for the Cardinals, who took the opener of a four-game series to keep pace with Milwaukee in the wild-card race.

Pineiro (5-5) allowed two runs, one earned, and seven hits.

Anibal Sanchez (1-2), making his third start since returning from shoulder surgery, gave up three runs in seven innings. He struck out eight, equaling his career high.

Astros 3, Giants 1

At Houston, Brandon Backe threw seven effective innings, Ty Wigginton homered and drove in three runs, and Houston beat San Francisco to win its fifth straight.

Backe (7-11) allowed a run and four hits, rebounding from his worst start of the season when he gave up 11 runs in 3 1-3 innings against the Chicago Cubs last Wednesday.

Jonathan Sanchez (8-9) didn't allow a hit for five innings, but again got little support from San Francisco's bats. The Giants have scored one run or less during 12 of his 24 appearances.

Dodgers 8, Phillies 6

At Los Angeles, Casey Blake hit a two-run homer and Manny Ramirez doubled in two more during a six-run third inning that carried Derek Lowe and Los Angeles past Philadelphia.

James Loney had three RBIs, and Jeff Kent and Matt Kemp each had three hits for the Dodgers, who trimmed Arizona's NL West lead to one game.

Lowe (9-10) rebounded from one of the worst outings of his career, holding the Phillies to three runs over 6 1-3 innings. Philadelphia cut the deficit to 8-6 on Chase Utley's two-run single with two outs in the ninth, but Jonathan Broxton retired Ryan Howard on a grounder with two on for his eighth save.

Howard drove in two runs, giving him his third consecutive 100-RBI season. The first-place Phillies remained two games ahead of New York in the NL East.

The victory was manager Joe Torre's 2,126th in the regular season, tying Joe McCarthy for seventh place on the career list.

CABO

From Page 28

"We will go for the No. 3," said Hofsneider, making an early challenge to interested participants next year.

Fifty-two boats joined the 2008 edition of one of the biggest annual tournaments in the SFA calendar.

In the total weight category, *Carmelita* of Judge Alex Castro won with its total catch of 259.15 lbs., including a 44.75-lb. wahoo.

Judge Castro and his anglers Patrick Ulechong, Alex Castro, Jr., and Jerry Babauta received $1,000 and the Mobil Cup trophy.

Carmelita, which was named after the judge's grand daughter, had the second heaviest catch after *MV Gloria II*'s 52.85-lb. wahoo.

MV Gloria II' s catch was a record one, beating the 49.5-lb. wahoo caught in a tournament here three years ago.

MV Gloria II, which pocketed $1,000 for its record-breaking catch, was skippered by John T. Sablan. The *MV Gloria II* captain and anglers George Teregeyo, Ray Guerrero, Ton Diaz, Ray Renguul, Warren Villagomez, L.J. Guerrero, and Joe Flores also took home a specially crafted wooden trophy.

The Top 3 placers in the wahoo, billfish, yellow fin, mahi-mahi and skipjack categories all received trophies and cash prizes.

Flame of Love of captain Keith Joe Torres finished third in the wahoo category with its 30.5-lb. catch.

Chacha II of captain Stan Waki and crew Greg Perez and Norman Tenorio won the billfish division. *Chacha II*'s catch tipped the scale at 277.5 lbs.

CM-345-CP's 265-lb. catch was the second heaviest in the billfish category, while *I Familia*'s 226.5-pounder was ranked third. Abet Parit and Jesus Sablan are the captains of *CM-345 -CP* and *I Familia*, respectively.

The Marianas of captain Jesse Muna topped the yellow fin category with its 49.10-lb. catch. Joining Muna in receiving the champion trophy from tournament organizers were crewmembers Sidro Sablan and Jesse Muna.

Saint Jude (48.5 lbs.) of captain Bob Sasamoto and San Juan (43 lbs.) of Jesus Sablan finished second and third, respectively.

The championship trophy in the mahi-mahi category went to *Emmanuel*, which was captained by Mike James of Guam. James and his lone crew member, John Hattig, had a 19.15-lb. catch, beating *Skip Jack* (6.80 lbs.) of Jim Bagley and J.P. of John Guerrero.

Captain Steve Pixley and crewmembers Ben Laborte, Jim Hollman, and Ron Biggeo of *Zeppelin* landed the heaviest catch in the skipjack category with 21.65 lbs.

DJ Fish Mobile's 20.40-lb. catch was good for second place, while *Saina* recorded a 20.15-pound catch to rank third in the skipjack category.

SFA president Gene Weaver thanked all participants and sponsors for making the event possible. He also encouraged NMI anglers to join the 14th Guam International Fishing Tournament on Aug. 23 and 24.

MAKE

From Page 28

you lose a race like that, it motivates me even more to try to swim faster."

Competing out in lane six, Phelps quickly surged to the lead and led by a full body length halfway through the second of four laps. He was nearly two seconds ahead of the field when he touched in 1 minute, 42.96 seconds, breaking the mark of 1:43.86 he set at last year's world championships.

"I just wanted to be out at the 50-meter point, and that's where I was," said Phelps, much more reserved in his reaction after a wild performance on deck the previous day. "I was in open water, and it was difficult for the other guys to see me."

South Korea's Park Tae-hwan took the silver in 1:44.85, touching while Phelps was already looking at the scoreboard. Peter Vanderkaay, one of Phelps' training partners, gave the U.S. another medal by claiming the bronze in 1:45.14.

"I knew Park is strong in the last 50 meters," Phelps said of the 400 free gold medalist, "so I knew I had to be fast and concentrated."

Everyone else figured they were racing for second.

"Phelps swam so fast," Park said. "It is my honor to compete with him."

Added Vanderkaay, "I just tried to swim my own race. He's going to go out, but I can't let that affect my race strategy."

Phelps is now 3-for-3 in Beijing, on course to beat Spitz's 36-year-old record of seven golds in a single Olympics. He opened with a world record in the 400 individual medley, then led off an epic victory in the 400 free relay.

While chasing Spitz, he'll take care of another historical landmark, one he wasn't even aware of until earlier this year.

Phelps's ninth career gold tied him with Spitz, Lewis, Soviet gymnast Larysa Latynina and Finnish runner Paavo Nurmi for the most in Olympic history.

"To be tied for the most Olympic golds of all time, with those names, in Olympic history ...," Phelps said, before pausing and letting out a slight chuckle.

"The Olympics have been around for so many years, that's a pretty amazing accomplishment."

The mark isn't likely to be shared for long. Phelps will go for his fourth and fifth golds of these games, which would push him to 11 overall, when he competes Wednesday in the finals of the 200 butterfly and 800 free relay, two more events in which he already holds world records.

Just for kicks, Phelps set an Olympic record during Tuesday's 200 fly semifinals, competing less than an hour after winning the 200 free.

"I set up an opportunity to have a perfect swim tomorrow," Phelps said.

Perfection. That sums up the gangly 23-year-old from Baltimore who loves rap music, pimped-out cars and doing things in the pool that no one else even dared to think of.

"It might be once in a century you see something like this," teammate Aaron Peirsol said. "He's not just winning, he's absolutely destroying everything. It's awesome to watch."

Phelps is a creature of habit. He struggles to wake up in the morning, and loves to take naps in the middle of the afternoon. He gets two massages a day and takes ice baths to help his body recover from the grueling schedule. He whoofs down gargantuan amounts of pasta and pizza between races.

"Lots of carbs," he said.

When it's time to race, there's no one better.

"It's his physical ability, it's his ability to race, it's his ability to keep focused, to get excited when he needs to and to come down when he needs to come down," said Mark Schubert, head coach of the U.S. team.

With Phelps leading the way, it turned out to be a red, white and blue morning for the American swimmers.

Peirsol defended his Olympic title in the 100 backstroke with a world record of 52.54, and teammate Matt Grevers made it a 1-2 U.S. finish. Peirsol beat his own mark, 52.89, set at last month's national trials in Omaha, Neb., while Grevers added to the gold he won for swimming the preliminaries of the 400 free relay.

"It never gets old," said Peirsol, who swept the backstroke golds in Athens and will try to do the same in Beijing. "It really does feel like the first time."

The bronze was shared by Russia's Arkady Vyatchanin and Australia's Hayden Stoeckle.

Natalie Coughlin became the first woman to repeat as champion of the 100 backstroke, winning with an American record of 58.96. She held off Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe, who set a world record of 58.77 in the semifinals but couldn't repeat that performance.

"I'm so glad to have this race behind me because there's so much pressure," said Coughlin, who claimed her seventh Olympic medal overall. "I tried to keep myself as mentally strong as possible."

Another American, Margaret Hoelzer, took bronze in 58.34.

"The ball's starting to roll," Phelps said. "Last year in Melbourne (at the world championships) one swim started it, and then swims just started happening one after another after another. We had a great morning this morning and hopefully we can set up some more good swims tonight and keep the ball rolling."

The U.S. dominance was broken only by Australia's Leisel Jones, who made up for a disappointing bronze four years ago by winning the 100 breaststroke in 1:05.17, just eight-hundredths off her own world record. Rebecca Soni, who got in the event after fellow American Jessica Hardy tested positive for drugs last month, took advantage of her opportunity by winning the silver in 1:06.73.

"It almost felt like less pressure because it wasn't initially my event," Soni said. "I don't think it's necessarily fair what happened, but rules are rules and I'm just doing what I'm told."

Mirna Jukic of Austria got the bronze (1:07.34).

The day before, Phelps led a raucous celebration on deck after Jason Lezak improbably caught France's Alain Bernard on the final stroke to give the Americans a thrilling relay win. He thrust both fists in the air and let out a long scream before burying himself with Lezak, Cullen Jones and Garrett Weber-Gale in a group hug.

There was no such drama this time. He has no equal in China.

Phelps touched the wall two full body lengths ahead of everyone else, put his right index finger in the air and matter-of-factly climbed from the pool.

After the medal ceremony, Phelps changed into a different suit—ditching the one that covers his stomach and chest for one that merely goes from waist to ankles—to swim in the semifinals of the 200 fly. He won the heat and tied his own Olympic record from the win at Athens four years ago, 1:53.70.

"I just wanted to win my heat and set everything up for tomorrow," Phelps said. "Just get through that and prepare myself for tomorrow, that's the most important thing. An afternoon off and it's time to just sort of get as rested as I can, recover, and I probably have to re-shave. Get all of that stuff down."

In the semifinals of the women's 200 free, Katie Hoff advanced with the second-fastest time of 1:57.01. The 19-year-old American, who's like a little sister to Phelps, is still trying to win her first gold medal after settling for bronze and silver in her first two events. She still has three more individual races, plus a relay, to fill that void.

Slovenia's Sara Isakovic was the top qualifier at 1:56.50.

Hoff returned to post the third-fastest time in the semifinals of the 200 individual medley, trailing Coventry (2:09.53) and Australia's Stephanie Rice (2:10.58) in 2:10.90.

It also was a busy morning for Coughlin, who won the other heat in the 200 IM with the fourth-best time overall, 2:11.84.

JI HOON

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are Robin Marove of PNG (Pool B), Clement Coarraz (Pool C), and Karl Yomes (Pool D).

Incidentally, Marove took the top spot in his pool after beating the CNMI's Christian Miller, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3. It was Miller's first loss in the three games.

However, Miller, like other runners-up in their pools, advanced to the knockout phase of the tourney where they will square off against topnotchers from other pools.

Also ending up with the same fate as Miller's is Mayuko Arriola, who was relegated to second fiddle in Pool B of the girls' 18-under after taking a 6-3, 3-6, 2-6 loss to PNG's Marcia Tere-Apisah.

Dina Jones, meanwhile, dropped her second game in three matches in the 2008 POJC after losing to eventual Pool D topnotcher Zinnia Leamana of Solomon Islands, 2-6, 6-7 (3-7).

Other girls' 18-under pool winners are Steffi Carruthers of Samoa (Pool A) and Litia Godinet of American Samoa (Pool C).

The CNMI junior netters are accompanied in the 2008 POJC tournament by the Commonwealth's longtime national tennis coach Jeff Race, who also used to serve as captain of the Pacific Oceania Davis Cup team. The 2008 POJC will run from Aug. 11 to 15 at the International Tennis Federation's regional training center.

TOUGH

From Page 28

tralia in their first game and it will be a very tough assignment, especially for a young team like us," coach Elias Rangamar said in an interview yesterday after the squad's training session at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The NMI team will be playing in the Oceania caging set to run from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 without key players Chelsea Ruluked and Elena Santos.

Ruluked, who was named MVP in the high school league here and Santos, who hails from Tinian, are now based in Oregon to continue their secondary education.

"They could not join us because of school commitments. They are a big loss to the team, but I am hoping that the three girls who played in the 2006 Micronesian Games will step up and give us good games," Rangamar said.

Liamwar Rangamar, Noelle Calvo, and Nicolle Lebria are the new go-to-gals of the team with the absence of Ruluked and Santos.

Liamwar played for Grace Christian Academy in the private school league before and was a member of the All-Conference Team, while Calvo and Lebria are both with the Mt. Carmel School women's varsity squad. They also played in various local tournaments last year.

Rangamar is also hoping to get contributions from Dione Diaz, who played for the Kagman Lady Ayuyus last year. Other members of the team are Jacque Wonenberg and twin sisters Yvonne and Yvette Bennett.

Rangamar is expected to name the 10-player roster on Monday.

Australia had already selected its representative to the Oceania caging three months ago. The team is composed of Rebecca Allen, Allyson Brown, Alexandra Bunton, Rebecca Cole, Madeleine Garrick, Kerryn Harrington, Jillian Haughton, Ashleigh Karaitiana, Georgia Minear, and Gretel Tippett. Nicole Ireland will coach the Opals.

Players were selected based from their performance in the Australian U16.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	71	46	.607	_
Boston	68	51	.57	14
New York	63	56	.529	9
Toronto	60	59	.504	12
Baltimore	56	61	.479	15

Central Division

Minnesota	66	52	.559	_
Chicago	65	52	.556	½
Detroit	58	60	.492	8
Kansas City	54	64	.458	12
Cleveland	53	64	.453	12½

West Division

Los Angeles	74	43	.632	_
Texas	61	58	.513	14
Oakland	54	63	.462	20
Seattle	45	73	.381	29

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	64	54	.542	_
New York	62	56	.525	2
Florida	62	57	.521	2 1/2
Atlanta	55	63	.466	9
Washington	44	75	.370	20 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	71	47	.602	_
Milwaukee	68	51	.571	3 1/2
St. Louis	66	55	.545	6 1/2
Houston	59	59	.500	12
Pittsburgh	54	64	.458	17
Cincinnati	52	67	.437	19 1/2

West Division

Arizona	60	58	.508	_
Los Angeles	59	59	.500	1
Colorado	53	67	.442	8
San Francisco	50	67	.427	9 1/2
San Diego	46	72	.390	14

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 7, N.Y. Mets 5
Milwaukee 7, Washington 1
St. Louis 4, Florida 2
Houston 3, San Francisco 1
L.A. Dodgers 8, Philadelphia 6
Toronto 7, Detroit 2
Cleveland 13, Baltimore 8
Minnesota 4, N.Y. Yankees 0
Boston 5, Chicago White Sox 1

2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

Partial Medal Count

	G	S	B	Total
USA	6	6	8	20
CHN	10	3	3	16
KOR	5	5	0	10
ITA	3	3	2	8
AUS	3	0	4	7
RUS	0	4	3	7
JPN	2	1	2	5
FRA	0	3	2	5
PRK	0	2	3	5
GBR	2	0	1	3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Talavera tops Classified Masters

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Four-time perfect gamer Robert Talavera reasserted his mastery of the Saipan Bowling Center after topping last Sunday's Classified Masters Bowling Tournament.

The SBC lanes supervisor topped the six-game series with 1,872 pinfalls, which was good for an eye-popping 208 average.

The 39-year-old Minalin, Pampanga in the Philippines native then saved his best for last, rolling a tournament-high 256 in the championship round against fellow finalist Simon Manacop's 195 to take the victory and the $700 cash prize that came with it.

Joining Talavera and Manacop in the stepladder finals were Richard Leong, Ramir De Leong, and Raul Dumapit.

Leong finished second to Talavera in the aforementioned six-game roll-off with his 1,844 pinfalls and 204.89 average. Manacop was third with his 1,806 and 200.67, while De Leon and Dumapit round out the Top 5 with their 1,795 and 199.44 and 1,792 and 199.11, respectively.

For finishing fourth and fifth De Leon and Dumapit duked it out in the first round of the stepladder finals with the latter advancing with a 188-161 victory.

Dumapit, however, was no match against Manacop in the second round as the Department of Public Safety officer beat him black and blue to the tune of 180-134.

Manacop continued to play beautiful music with his bowling ball in the semifinals as he upset second seed Leong, 173-147, to earn the right to play Talavera for all the marbles.

Talavera, however, was more than ready to face off with the former CNMI youth bowler as he rolled one of his best games in months to win the first-ever Classified Masters Bowling Tournament.

Manacop settled for the $350 second place purse, while Leong took home $200. Dumapit came away $125 richer for placing fourth, while De Leon bagged $100 for his effort.

Aside from the Top 5, Raymond Angeles and Romy Guevarra were awarded $50 apiece for finishing sixth and seventh in the six-game roll-off. Angeles knocked down 1,737 pinfalls (193 average), while Guevara was good for 1,732 (192.44).

Classified Masters Bowling Tournament organizer Ador Dimaano said a total of 40 keglers took part in the competition. He said he will organize another masters classified tournament in the coming months.

All participants actually didn't come home empty-handed, as Dimaano gave away a case of Waioka Sardines and a case of Anchor Milk for eighth to 17th placers, soda for 18th to 22nd, T-shirts with caps for 23rd place to 32nd place, and $10 and $5 to 33rd to 40th placers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Classified Masters Bowling Tournament champion Robert Talavera is flanked by the rest of the Top 5, from left, Ramir De Leon, Raul Dumapit, Simon Manacop, and Richard Leong after the competition Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

PTI govt/biz basketball schedule revised anew

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety pulled out of the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League prompting organizers to change the competition's schedule.

From 12 teams, the league will now have 11 squads battling for the coveted championship trophy.

Changes in the game schedule will be implemented starting tonight with Aguaguat taking on the Bank of Guam Express in the first game at 6:30pm. The second game of the night will have 2006 champion Tinian facing Department of Corrections at 8pm.

Tomorrow, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will duel Legislature in the first game, while Autonomous will challenge DOC.

Autonomous will play back-to-back games, as it collides with the Commonwealth Ports Authority in the first match this Friday, while NMC battles undefeated PTI.

PTI is still unbeaten after downing DCCA Monday night, 100-89.

Nine more games are set for the next two weeks before the playoffs begin on Aug. 26.

DOC will face CPA in the first match on Aug. 18, while PTI will play DPW/P&S in the second game.

On Aug. 19, DCCA will meet DPW/P & S in the lone match of the night. Autonomous will fight Aguaguat in the curtain raiser on Aug. 20, while the NMC-CPA tussle will be featured in the second match.

Games schedule on Aug. 20 will be Autonomous vs. Aguaguat and NMC against CPA; DCCA vs. DOC on Aug. 21; Tinian vs Aguaguat on Aug. 22 and Aguaguat vs. PTI and Autonomous vs. NMC on Aug. 25.

For more, contact Joey Dela Cruz at 664-2503.

MARK RABAGO
The recent pullout of Department of Public Safety prompted organizers of the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League to rework the scheduled of the roundball competition.

Wet field postpones BSML finals

MARK RABAGO
Rock Steady, seen here taking on Kabur in a file, was supposed to face Ford Rangers in Game 1 of their best-of-three finals in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League Monday night but rain left the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field wet and unplayable.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League again encountered some problems Monday night when Mother Nature postponed Game 1 of the best-of-five finals between pennant champion and undefeated Rock Steady and Ford Rangers.

SML commissioner Tony Rogolofoi said, for a change, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is not to blame for the postponement as rain showers the past few days left the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field unplayable.

"I called the gym staff early in the day to see if the field was playable and was told that it was still wet. We will start the game tomorrow (Aug. 12), weather permitting," he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

After power outages wrought havoc to the Budweiser-sponsored league the past couple of weeks, Rogolofoi is praying for sunny weather in the days ahead so that the championship will start and continue unimpeded.

"We will just have to play it by ear for now. Hopefully the sun will shine on us today (Aug. 12) so we can proceed with the games."

In related news, the SML Fall League has scheduled a meeting tomorrow, Aug. 14, 5:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Rogolofoi said the topics to be discussed will include the league's opening date, league format, eligibility documents, fees, and other related matters.

He said interested teams are asked to bring rosters and, if possible, entry fee of $800, payable to Saipan Major League.

The SML has also scheduled a meeting for its Masters League on Sept. 4 starting at 5:30pm at the Ada Gym conference room.

The agenda will be the upcoming Masters League for players 35 years old and over, which is penciled to start in October.

Teams are asked to start securing sponsors. Entry fee is $800 and is payable to Saipan Major League.

For more information about the BSML, SML Fall, and SML Masters, contact Rogolifoi at 288-3515.

BANMI eyes Sept. start for 25-and-under caging

The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is eyeing an early September start for its 25-and-under Basketball League.

In a telephone interview yesterday, BANMI board member and 25-and-under coordinator Abner Venus is calling on all interested teams to prepare for the competition. Entrance fee for the 25-and-under cage league is $800.

While jerseys are required for all teams, Venus said BANMI is willing to compromise as long as teams wear same colored T-shirts and matching shorts for the competition.

He said BANMI is expected to finalize the format for the 25-and-under Basketball League during its next scheduled monthly meeting next month.

For more inquiries about the 25-and-under Basketball League, contact Venus at 483-4906 or fellow coordinator Elias Rangamar at 664-2502.

Ulloa's won the 2007 Saipan-Cell 25-and-under Youth Basketball League crown, beating the Southern Sonics, 2-1, in their best-of-three championship series.

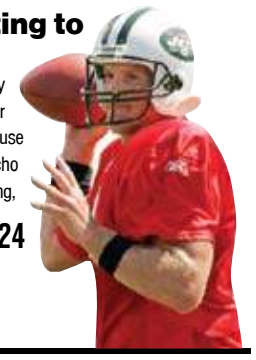
The team clinched the crown after a 90-81 victory in Game 3. Ulloa's took Game 1, 101-86, but Southern Sonics roared back with a 100-94 victory in Game 2. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Talavera tops Classified Masters

Four-time perfect gamer Robert Talavera reasserted her mastery of the Saipan Bowling Center after topping last Sunday's Classified Masters Bowling Tournament. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Jets receivers adjusting to rifle-armed Favre



Brett Favre's impact is already being felt by his new receivers' stinging hands. "Whatever route you have, you better run it hard because the ball could be coming," wide receiver Jerricho Cotchery said Monday. "If you're not looking, you may get hit in the head." 24

AP

United States' Michael Phelps celebrates setting a new world record as he wins the gold medal in the men's 200-meter freestyle dinL during the swimming competitions in the National Aquatics Center at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008.

Make room for Phelps as winningest Olympian ever

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—Michael Phelps climbed out of the pool, unzipped his skin-tight suit and ambled over to chat with his coach.

"Well, you're tied," Bob Bowman reminded him.

"That's pretty cool," Phelps replied.

Yawn. This guy is making monumental feats look ridiculously easy.

Phelps etched his name with Mark Spitz and Carl Lewis among the winningest Olympians ever with his third gold medal and third world record in as many days.

RELATED NEWS
China wins gold, US bronze in men's gymnastics.
PAGE 25

In winning the 200-meter freestyle Tuesday, Phelps ran his career Olympic total to nine golds and avenged his only individual loss in Athens four years ago, when a 19-year-old Phelps took on the 200 free just so he could compete with Ian Thorpe and Pieter van den Hoogenband.

He finished third that night in what was called the "Race of the Century." This time, it was hardly a race at all.

Phelps all the way.

"I hate to lose," he said. "When

See MAKE on Page 26

Cabo Express is repeat champ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Cabo Express hoisted the perpetual grand prize trophy in the Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament for the second straight year after topping the 24th edition of the Saipan Fishermen Association-led event over the weekend.

The Rep. Heinz Hofshneider-captained *Cabo Express* had its name engraved again in the five-foot high trophy after recording the heaviest catch in the two-day event, landing a 484-lb. marlin last Saturday during Day 1 of the competition.

24th Annual

Last year, *Cabo Express* won the grand prize after hauling a 288.50-lb. marlin, also on the first day of the 23rd edition of the annual event.

The lawmaker was joined by *Cabo Express* anglers Luis Manibusan, Patrick Diaz, John Castro, and brother Conrad in claiming the grand prize trophy during the awards banquet held in the pool side of the Hyatt Hotel Monday night.

Cabo Express also took home the $2,500 top purse and an additional $900, which came from nine teams that paid $100 each for the heaviest catch contest.

Flashing the No. 2 sign, the crew of *Cabo Express* vowed for a three-peat.

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Cabo Express captain Heinz Hofshneider and his anglers pose with their giant trophy after winning the grand prize in the 24th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament during the awards banquet held Monday night at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

ROSELYN MONROYO

Ji Hoon, Thea, Rafael top pools in POJC

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ji Hoon Heo, Thea Minor, and Rafael Jones topped their respective pools in the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships yesterday even as Mayuko Arriola and Christian Miller absorbed their first setbacks at the Robin Mitchell Regional Tennis Centre in Lautoka, Fiji.

After opening up with two wins Monday, Heo shrugged off a shaky start to beat Ian Honila of Solomon Islands, 1-6, 6-0, 6-3.

The 16-year-old Marianas High School student thus topped Pool A of the boys' 18-under division with a 3-0 win-loss record, followed by Honila (2-1), Chris Sami of American Samoa (1-2) and Vicky Reddy of Fiji (0-3).

Other pool winners in the age group are William O'Connel of Fiji (Pool B), Prince Matuatia of Samoa (Pool C), and Heo's practice partner and friend Lorenzo Pineda of Vanuatu (Pool D).

Minor also topped Pool B of the girls' 13-under after following up her Day 1 victory with a 6-2, 6-3 conquest of Lorish Puluspene of Papua New Guinea.

Puluspene wound up with a 1-1 record and Simuko Afemui of Tonga was winless in two outings in pool play.

Other pool topnotchers in the girls' 13-under were Annie Shannon of Fiji (Pool A), Samuelle Bull of New Caledonia (Pool C) and Tarani Kamoe of Fiji (Pool D).

Rafael Jones duplicated Heo's and Minor's feats in Pool A of the boys' 13-under as he followed up his two victories on opening day with a hard-earned 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, 6-4 victory over Christian Duchnak of American Samoa.

Duchnak wound up second in Pool A with a 2-1 record with PNG's John Mart Kaiulo (1-2) and Fiji's Darshal Patel (0-3) bringing up the rear.

Other pool winners in the division

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Minor

Jones

Tough opening assignment for NMI cagebelles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI women's 19-under team will be facing a tough test when it debuts against Australia in the 2008 FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament in Guam next month.

Rangamar

Australia is the defending champion in the women's division of the youth caging, winning the 2006 edition of the biennial tournament after beating New Zealand in the knockout finals, 56-47.

"Our girls will be meeting Aus-

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